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PROTESTS MADE TO USSR OVER SHIPPING INCIDENT

OW250635 Tokyo KYODO in English 0618 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo Nov 25 KYODO -- The Foreign Ministry Monday protested to the Soviet Union about last Thursday's incident in which a Soviet warship fired warning shots at a Japanese fishing boat in the Tsushima Strait. The protest was made at the ministry by Ishenbai Abdurazakov, counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo.

Nomura asked for the Soviet authorities to prevent the recurrence of such an incident in the area, where many Japanese fishing boats operate. The incident occurred when a rope attached to the anchor of the 8.5-ton squid fishing boat "Aiko Maru" became entangled with the anchor of the 2,300-ton Soviet minelayer "Vychevda." However, no damage or casualties were reported from the fishing boat, which had a crew of three. Its home port is Mitsushima, on Tsushima Island. The Soviet counselor told Nomura that he will convey the protest to the Soviet government.

ABE MEETS U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOLFOWITZ

OW221115 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 22 KYODO -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan thanked Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in a letter Friday for Japanese support for his recent summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva.

According to Foreign Ministry officials, the letter was handed to Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe by Paul Wolfowitz, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. The U.S. official arrived in Japan earlier Friday to brief the Japanese Government on the two-day summit.

The officials said that Wolfowitz, who met Abe for about 30 minutes, revealed that Reagan and Gorbachev did not discuss the Korean issue during the summit. Instead, the Korean issue was taken up for discussion by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who met in parallel with the summit in Geneva, Wolfowitz told Abe.

The officials said Wolfowitz briefed Abe on details of the Reagan-Gorbachev talks on the Afghanistan, Kampuchean and other regional crises. But they did not elaborate.

NAKASONE CONGRATULATES U.S. ON SUMMIT 'SUCCESS'

OW230519 KYODO in English 0509 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 23 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone got a telephone call from U.S. President Ronald Reagan Saturday and Nakasone said he congratulated Reagan for the "great success" of the just-ended U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

The brief exchange took place Saturday morning while Nakasone was about to start a round of golf with his aides at the Koganei Country Club just outside Tokyo. Saturday is Japan's Labor Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday. Emerging from the telephone booth at the club house, Nakasone told reporters that Reagan asked for his comments on the two-day meeting he had with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev earlier this week.

Nakasone congratulated Reagan on the success of the summit meeting and said he told Reagan that he will put his thoughts together later in a letter. In addition to the telephone call, Reagan also wrote Nakasone a personal letter, thanking him for the support he gave Reagan in his meeting with Gorbachev, government sources said. The letter was delivered Friday by Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Paul Wolfowitz, who came to Japan to brief the Japanese government on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Nakasone said Reagan made a point of asking whether he had been informed of the contents of Wolfowitz' briefing. The prime minister responded that he got a report of the briefing from Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe but anyway he watched the summit proceedings on TV and congratulated the President for making a "fresh start" in U.S.-Soviet relations. The two leaders also exchanged pleasantries during the five-minute conversation with Reagan reportedly apologizing to Nakasone for intruding on his round of golf.

ABE WANTS TO PROMOTE 'DISARMAMENT DIPLOMACY'

OW240526 Tokyo KYODO in English 0503 GMT 24 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 24 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said Sunday Japan will promote its "disarmament diplomacy" following the success of the summit in Geneva between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Japan wants to work hard "to create an international climate in which the agreements reached at the summit will be realized steadily," said Abe at a Sunday talk program of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). The foreign minister noted that Japan has presented a proposal aimed at a gradual banning of nuclear arms testing to the Geneva disarmament conference. The Japanese government hopes to obtain approval of the proposal from world nations, Abe said.

He also hoped that the successful summit in Geneva will have a good influence on his talks in Tokyo next January with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. "I would like to see the same good atmosphere emerging at the meeting (with Shevardnadze) as that of the U.S.-Soviet summit," Abe said.

Abe said he will explain to Shevardnadze Japan's basic stand that it wants to start negotiations with Moscow for a peace treaty, which will cover the territorial issue concerning the Soviet-held northern islands off Hokkaido. Abe said he hopes his frank discussions with Shevardnadze will lead to an improvement in Japan-Soviet relations. Shevardnadze is coming to Tokyo as the first Soviet foreign minister to do so in 10 years.

LAW PRACTICE TALKS WITH U.S. BREAK DOWN

OW221229 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 22 KYODO -- Japanese and U.S. officials decided here Friday to continue talks in the middle of January on the issue of legal practice by foreign lawyers in Japan. The decision came after the officials from the Japanese Justice Ministry and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office failed to reach any accord on the matter at their meeting over the past two days.

Liberalization of the legal practice to allow foreign attorneys to practice in Japan is part of market opening measures promised by the Japanese Government. Discussing the draft liberalization proposal drawn up by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, however, the U.S. officials claimed the draft still contained too much restriction, according to informed sources.

The sources said that the U.S. officials demanded further compromise from Japan on joint practice by foreign and Japanese lawyers in Japan. The U.S. officials presented demands on five other points in the draft, including the method of foreign lawyers' registration. With the federation and areas in which non-Japanese attorneys will be permitted to practice, the sources said. They said the Japanese and U.S. officials decided to meet again in January after the federation has worked out a draft revision of the general law governing legal practice, necessary for allowing foreign lawyers to practice law in Japan, at its general meeting on December 9.

AGREEMENT TO END COMPUTER TARIFFS MADE WITH U.S.

OW221127 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 22 KYODO -- Japan and the United States have reached final agreement on eliminating their import tariffs on computer-related items simultaneously at the earliest possible date next year, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Ministry officials said the two countries will exchange notes to this effect in Washington Friday local time (Saturday Japan time).

The date for implementation of the agreement will be fixed after domestic procedures are completed in the two countries, they added. Japan and the United States have been discussing the elimination of the tariffs on computer-related items following their mutual elimination of tariffs on semiconductors in March.

Canada has also expressed its intention to act in concert with Japan and the United States in eliminating tariffs on semiconductors and computer parts.

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES END ECONOMIC TALKS

OW230947 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 23 Nov 85

[by Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Kyoto, Nov 23 KYODO -- Senior government officials of Japan and six other industrial democracies ended two days of closed-door talks here Friday with an agreement to fight "disinflation" in preparation for the Tokyo summit next May, a conference source said Saturday. The source said Deputy Foreign Minister Keishi Teshima of Japan agreed with his counterparts from the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, West Germany and the European Community to focus their next meeting on the falling prices of primary products, unemployment, debts of developing countries and coordination of economic policies of the seven summit member countries involved.

Teshima, as personal representative (PR) of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the host of the Tokyo summit May 4-6, 1986, and the seven other PR's reviewed the pulse of the global economic system, which appears close to contracting "disinflation" manifested by declining prices of tin and other primary goods and a slowdown in capital investment. During the secretive and lengthy sessions at the Miyako hotel here Thursday and Friday, the PR's uniformly expressed concern about the ominous economic trend and extensively discussed ways to cope with it and promote economic growth, said the conference source who declined to be named.

The vague accord to take on disinflation represented a departure from economic declarations of the last three annual seven-nation summits calling for sustained, non-inflationary economic growth. In this respect, the source said, the foreign delegates expressed a strong interest in Premier Nakasone's private advisory group charged with exploring steps to bring about worldwide economic growth through coordinated economic policies.

The PR's concurred in their assessment that drastic measures are needed to deal with the falling prices of primary products and persistent protectionism which has been a major source of concern to Japan and other trading countries heavily dependent on exports for their economic growth. The Personal Representatives hailed the U.S. dollar's drop in value against the Japanese yen and other major currencies following the emergency G-5 meeting in New York in September as a successful example of coordinated efforts to achieve a uniform objective. The senior government officials also agreed on the need for the summit member countries involved to make additional efforts to reflect the fundamentals of their economies in their respective currencies.

Another key topic of discussion at the two-day meeting here was new global trade liberalization talks which will dominate the annual general meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva starting Monday. The Bonn summit in May failed to produce agreement on a starting date for a new GATT round because of France's objection.

Teshima, the Japanese PR, underscored the importance of new global trade talks to further strengthen the multilateral trading system, to help developing countries and to deal effectively with changing economic conditions. India, Brazil and several other countries are strongly opposed to the inclusion of services in the proposed GATT round.

The conference source said the PR's also had a discussion about successfully staging the Tokyo summit, the 12th in a series that began in 1975 and the second in Tokyo, by keeping red tape to a minimum and possible declarations short. The Kyoto confab was the first of four PR meetings planned prior to the seven-nation summit. This ancient capital was once suggested as a possible site for the second summit in Japan but was dropped due to security concerns.

MITI FEARS STRONG YEN MAY CAUSE DEFLATION

OW250725 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 25 KYODO -- A senior official at the Ministry of International Industry (MITI) said Monday he fears a further upsurge of the Japanese yen against the dollar may cause deflation of the Japanese economy. If the Japanese economy goes into deflation, it would scale down both exports and imports, he said.

The official, who declined to be named, was commenting on the yen's rise against the dollar on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market Monday, in which it surpassed the 200 yen-per-dollar level for the first time in four years 10 months. The rising value of the yen would help in the long run to improve Japan's trade balance by reducing its trade surpluses, but if it goes too far it will result in deflation, the official said. He said he hopes the yen will settle at a rate of 200 to 210 yen per dollar.

The official pointed out that some small exporting firms have already been hit by the upturn of the yen since the group of five (G-5), finance ministers' meeting on September 22 in New York. MITI is studying ways of helping such businesses, whose export prices have been raised by the yen's upsurge against the dollar, the official said. MITI is also hoping to see tax cuts on capital investment and housing starts to stimulate domestic demand and increase imports, he added.

FINANCE MINISTRY RAISES 1986 'SECOND BUDGET'

OW230911 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 23 KYODO -- The Finance Ministry Saturday informally decided to increase the fiscal 1986 investment and loan program, known as the second budget under Japan's two-tier budget system, by about 5 percent from the current year to 21.9 trillion yen. The "fairly big" increase is taken to mean that the Ministry hopes to utilize the program to expand domestic demand rather than depend on the tight general account budget.

The program is to be financed largely by funds from postal savings and government-run pension systems, such as the "Kosei Nenkin" (welfare pension) and "Kokumin Nenkin" (national pension). The increase rate is sharply up from the 2.4 percent yearly gain initially sought at the end of August by government ministries and agencies.

It is planning to allot the funds, among other things, to public projects such as construction of a new Kansai (western Japan) International Airport and highways in its vicinity. The fiscal investment and loan program in the current year suffered the first year-to-year drop in 31 years for want of funds.

ADVISORY BODY TO STUDY INDIRECT TAX FEASIBILITY

OW221215 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 22 KYODO -- The Tax System Council, an advisory body to the prime minister, agreed Friday to study the propriety of introducing a large-scale indirect tax from a broad point of view. The council's ad hoc group on indirect tax also decided that this study will not be bound by a 1979 resolution of the Diet registering opposition to a general consumption tax, council sources said. This was the first time that the council had taken up the problem of large-scale indirect tax in its current study on the revision of Japan's tax system.

It was also agreed that a subcommittee of experts will study six possible types of large-scale indirect tax, including the value added tax introduced by European Community (EC) nations. The ad hoc group will start a full scale study after receiving a report from the subcommittee early next year, the sources said. The introduction of a large-scale indirect tax is favored by some officials as a means of rectifying a revenue shortfall.

Also discussed Friday were the liquor tax and stamp duty. Some members called for simplification of the liquor tax system and equalization of liquor tax rates to remove imbalance between different liquors, the sources said.

JCP RETAINS MIYAMOTO AS HEAD; ENDS CONGRESS

OW240945 Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 24 Nov 85

[Text] Atami, Shizuoka Pref., Nov 24 KYODO -- The Communist Party of Japan closed a six-day congress Sunday after retaining Kenji Miyamoto as its top leader. Relected as chairman of the central committee, Miyamoto, 76, has been the supreme leader of the party for over a quarter century since he became secretary general in 1958.

Tetsuzo Fuwa, 55, considered as a close disciple of Miyamoto, was also retained as chairman of the Presidium, the highest decision-making body. The key post of secretary general again went to Mitsuhiro Kaneko, 61.

PRC REPORTS JCP CONVENTION 1ST TIME IN 19 YEARS

OW250745 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Beijing, Nov 25 KYODO -- The Chinese Communist Party newspaper PEOPLE'S DAILY reported a Japan Communist Party (JCP) convention Monday for the first time in 19 years. The JCP ended its six-day session Sunday. The paper last reported a JCP convention in 1966, when there was a break in relations between the two parties.

In the convention, held in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, JCP leader Kenji Miyamoto disclosed that the two parties have begun talks to try to thaw their relations. The Chinese party also confirmed this last Thursday. Observers in Beijing say the paper's report on the JCP convention indicates some progress has already been made in improving relations between the parties.

CPC OFFICIAL CONFIRMS 'CONTACTS' WITH JCP

OW210727 Tokyo KYODO in English 0711 GMT 21 Nov 85

[Text] Beijing, Nov 21 KYODO -- The Communist Party of China (CPC) Thursday confirmed that it has had contacts with the Japan Communist Party (JCP) this year aimed at mending their broken relations. "The Communist Party of China has had talks with the Japan Communist Party on relations between the two parties," said a spokesman for the party's International Liaison Department in reply to queries from KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

KYODO put the question following the announcement made this week by JCP leader Kenji Miyamoto that the two parties have been conducting rapprochement talks this year. Party relations were severed in 1966 in the wake of the ultra-leftist "Cultural Revolution" in China, with the JCP accusing the Chinese party of interfering in its domestic party affairs.

The spokesman, however, refused to give further details about the talks with the JCP, such as the contents, the dates, the venues and the members taking part in the talks. Neither did he answer a question as to whether or not the talks are still under way. Last February, a spokesman for the department expressed the hope that the CPC would restore contacts and exchanges with the JCP on the basis of four principles -- independence, equality, mutual respect and non-interference.

VOP: PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN JAPAN

GF181908 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] A Palestinian delegation led by Brother 'Abd al-Latif Abu Hijlah, general director of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Tokyo. The Palestinian delegation will hold discussions with senior officials at the Japanese Foreign Ministry and with state officials, leaders of political parties, and Japanese public figures on the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and on Zionist terrorism and oppression against Palestinians inside the occupied territories. The visit is also designed to bolster Palestinian-Japanese relations.

SOUTH URGED TO RESPOND ON PARLIAMENTARY TALKS

SK221140 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1145 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Commentary by station commentator Cho Tu-ul: "Why Are They Delaying?"]

[Text] As has been reported, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK SPA sent a letter to the speaker of the South Korean National Assembly on 18 November.

In the letter, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK SPA noted that the South side is delaying the holding of the third round of the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks without a justifiable reason, and called for it to decide the date of contact and to inform him so that the contact can be held within November. This is a reflection of the desire and opinion of all Korean people and the peace-loving peoples of the world who earnestly hope that North-South parliamentary talks will be held at an early date and, thus, an epochal aspect will be provided for peace in our country and the settlement of the question of reunification.

As has been made public, our side has already sent telephone messages to the South side twice for the third round of the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks, and called for it to decide the date of contact. In response to this, the South side sent no understandable reply. Then, on 30 October, the South side said that it would inform us of its opinion regarding the date of preliminary contact after 18 December, when the ongoing National Assembly session has ended. This shows the extremely insincere attitude of the South side toward North-South parliamentary talks. At the same time, this is an extremely irresponsible and impolite act of ignoring the desire of the nation for national harmony, unity, the alleviation of tension, and peaceful reunification. The South side's talk about the ending of the National Assembly session and its delaying of the preliminary contact are entirely unjustifiable, and are nothing more than an excuse that no one can understand.

Today, nothing is more important and urgent for our nation than easing tension in the country and providing a precondition for peaceful reunification. North-South parliamentary talks are precisely for the purpose of solving these questions. Nevertheless, the South side, as a party to dialogue, talks about its internal situation and is delaying handling a life-and-death matter for the nation. This is an extremely improper act. Moreover, preliminary contact is not held every day, and only takes a maximum of 2 hours. Therefore, if the South side is sincere, preliminary contact can be held at any time, even if the South Korean National Assembly session is being held. Nevertheless, the South side is delaying holding preliminary contact, using the National Assembly session as an excuse. How can this be understood?

In actuality, the South side is continuing to hold contacts and meetings with parliamentary members of other countries, while saying that it cannot hold contact with us, fellow compatriots. This clearly shows that the South side is deliberately delaying holding preliminary contact. Such an insincere attitude on the part of the South side has been produced by its incorrect stand and posture toward North-South parliamentary talks. Contrary to our stand of using North-South dialogue as an important opportunity to achieve national harmony and unity and provide a precondition for the alleviation of tension and peaceful reunification, the South side is trying to exploit dialogue as a means to perpetuate division.

The South side is participating in dialogue as a result of pressure from public opinion at home and abroad. However, behind the scenes, it is further instigating the sentiment of anticommunist confrontation, while seeking military buildup and staging war exercise commotions against us daily. The person called the South Korean prime minister, during the 40th UN General Assembly Session, conducted diplomacy of begging along with the Western countries for the creation of two Koreas.

At the General Assembly, he made a speech calling for South Korea's unilateral entry into the United Nations. Needless to say, this has stemmed from the demand of the U.S. imperialists' strategy toward Korea of creating two Koreas on the Korean peninsula, to hold South Korea as their colony and military base indefinitely and, using it as a foothold, to invade the whole of Korea and other countries. At the same time, the South side's continued delaying of the third round of the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks, using an unjustifiable excuse, and its insincere attitude regarding contact and talks are also closely linked with this.

However, the line of division and confrontation cannot be compatible with the demand of the era and the aspiration of the nation. If the South side continues to seek the line of division, running counter to the aspiration and desire of the nation for national harmony and unity, the alleviation of tension, and peaceful reunification, it will commit an unpardonable crime before the country and the nation. If the South side wants to fulfill the heavy responsibility and mission for the era and the nation, it must do away with the insincere attitude toward dialogue, adopt a correct stand on the basis of the idea of the nation, and exert sincere efforts, along with us, for successful progress in North-South parliamentary talks.

NODONG SINMUN ON PROPOSAL FOR USING AIR TRAVEL

SK230203 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2151 GMT 21 Nov 85

[NODONG SINMUN 22 November commentary: "An Attempt To Find Fault With Someone"]

[Text] The 9 November edition of South Korean daily CHUNGANG ILRO carries an article on our proposal that members of the delegations of both sides use airplanes while visiting opposite sides to participate in Red Cross talks. The daily made the preposterous remarks that our proposal smacked of an attempt to conduct air reconnaissance against the South side and that if transportation means are used for a military purpose, progress in the talks will face serious obstacles.

We cannot interpret the daily's extremely distorted assertion as anything but representing the position and intent of the present ruling circles. This is because this assertion is wonderfully identical to the voice of the splittists who do not want to improve relations between the North and South and who are only interested in fanning the sentiment of confrontation. Our proposal to use air transportation when exchanging visits by delegations is aimed at contributing to making progress in dialogue by offering convenience in the exchange of visits and by providing an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity.

The South side said that there is no reason for changing the land transportation to air transportation though the round trip by land requires half a day. However, a round trip between Pyongyang and Seoul by land transportation actually requires 1 or 2 days because this trip is required to pass through Panmunjom. Using air transportation is not bad. As for air reconnaissance for which the South side picked a quarrel with us, the course that we can use to the South side is less than 40 km from the Military Demarcation Line to Kimp'o Airport while the South side's course is more than 160 km from the Military Demarcation Line to Pyongyang Airport. How can one imagine that, in order to conduct air reconnaissance for less than 40 kilometers, we intend to open to the South side a course which is several times longer than the 40-km-long course.

The theory of air reconnaissance is a theory concocted by those who are not interested in dialogue and who are eager to promote confrontation. The South side's preposterous and slanderous propaganda has revealed the position of the South side, which is insincere in dialogue.

While gaining benefit by committing the act of prolonging division and while babbling about dialogue and about reunification, the South side has not taken a single measure toward progress in dialogue and has used dialogue as a means of keeping things status quo. While holding dialogue with us, the South side has increased military capability and strengthened war exercises and anticommunist propaganda.

Because of its two pronged trick, the economic and Red Cross talks have failed to advance smoothly. Because of its delaying tactics, the parliamentary talks have failed to reach an agreement on the agenda items 4 months after arranging a preliminary contact. We cannot tell when the next preliminary contact will be.

The people hope that relations between the North and South will be improved and develop through dialogue and that the road of reunification will open. When will we realize the humanitarian work of helping the separated families and relatives to enjoy reunion if the South side ignores our just proposal and if it uses it as an excuse for conducting anticommunist propaganda? The South side should not conduct false propaganda on our constructive proposal and should act benefitting dialogue. We once again urge the South side to carefully consider our proposed and should act benefitting dialogue. We once again urge the South side to carefully consider our proposal and show an affirmative response.

SUPPRESSION OF SOUTH STUDENTS' s STRUGGLE VIEWED

SK221312 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0840 GMT 19 Nov 85

[NODONG SINMUN 19 November article: "Suppression Is Not a Solution"]

[Text] Almost daily we hear troubling and sad news reports to the effect that participants in assemblies and demonstrations are arrested in groups after being attacked by tear gas canisters and clubbed, and are referred to trials. In Seoul, on 16 November, 15 students were imprisoned and 8 others referred to summary trials; on 14 and 15 November, 6 were imprisoned, 14 were committed to the Prosecutor's Office, 12 were referred to summary trials, and 4 were tried. Previously, on 13 November, 180 were taken away to the police station.

According to reports, the Kyonggi Provincial Police Headquarters took 3,613 to the police station during a period of some 40 days by repeatedly launching all-out crackdowns in areas surrounding campuses in the province. Of this number, the police booked 1,525, imprisoned 708, and referred 506 to summary trials. It is said that most of them are so-called problem students. Political, religious, academic, press, literary, and artistic circles are not peaceful, either. On many occasions, activities of opposition representatives became issues, democratic figures were put under house arrest, bookstores were rummaged, and publications were confiscated. On 11 November, seven members of the Chonggye Textile Labor Union were sentenced to prison terms in a trial. A human rights organization revealed that 500 political prisoners are in jail in South Korea and that prisoners are tortured. Repeated mass assaults, mass arrests, and mass trials give the impression that South Korea itself is not a place where human beings are living, but that it has been turned into a large prison or mass concentration camp without bars.

During the rule of the former dictator, when the Yusin system was established, guiltless residents were taken away to prisons and police cells in the course of many sweeping roundups. At that time, they gave advance notice before launching mass roundups by announcing an emergency decree or something similar to this. However, these days, people are taken away without prior notification. The current dictator outdoes the former dictator in applying suppressive rule.

In South Korea, where arrest without a warrant is enforced at any time, residents are reduced to the status of lacking freedom to come and go. How can people live freely and sleep well in this society? They oppressors suppress imprisoned people by branding them as procommunist elements and those who committed acts benefitting the enemy. Platforms and declarations of student organizations and democratic organizations, as well as participants in assemblies and demonstrations, reject South Korea's subjugation to foreign forces and fascism, demand national independence and democracy, oppose national division, and call for the reunification of the country.

Achieving independence and democracy in South Korea and reunifying the divided fatherland are a constant hope and aspiration of the South Korean people that the youths, students, and conscientious figures who highly value social justice and who worry about the destiny of the nation should speak for the people's urgent demand is natural, and cannot be an object of suppression. Even while the South Korean rulers brand the students' slogans as procommunist, they use these slogans as a shield for concealing their toadyist, antidemocratic, and divisionist position. Even though the South Korean dictator is carrying out the fascist, divisionist policy of opposing democratization and reunification, while maintaining U.S. forces in South Korea, he advanced the proposal for national harmony and democratic reunification. If the students' demand for national independence, democratization of South Korean society, and reunification of the country is to be punished, they, who claim to stand for national self-determination and democratic reunification, should be punished, first on charges of committing procommunist acts.

A short while ago, the South Korean students called for North-South students talks in order to consolidate blood ties between students. The oppressors are searching for those who called for student talks, regarding this as a criminal act. While they are holding dialogue with us, they suppress college students who demand dialogue by calling their demand illegal. This is self-contradictory.

It is not the demonstrators who have caused social disorder and unrest in South Korea today, but rather the rulers who, while suppressing the demonstrators' just demand with bayonets, have checked the advance of history. The students would not need to rush to the streets from their campuses if their demands were met.

On 4 November, students from seven universities in Seoul occupied the Seoul office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and demanded that the United States stop its economic invasion of South Korea and lift its pressure for the opening of markets. This was a protest against the U.S. policy for the coercive sale of surplus agricultural products -- the policy of threatening the right to existence of the 10 million South Korean peasants.

If the rulers had listened to the voices of the peasants opposing the import of surplus agricultural products, and if they had refused to give in to the U.S. demand for the opening of markets, the South office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce would not have been occupied. The oppressors have not only refused to accept the demands of the peasants, but have also suppressed and arrested the student occupiers by mobilizing riot-suppressing police forces, thus answering the demands. The suppressive measures caused a chain reaction of events -- an antigovernment demonstration by more than 6,000 students from 17 universities in South Korea, a ceremony held to burn U.S. commercial goods, and the occupation of the central headquarters of the New Community Movement, a plundering agency in South Korea.

The ringleaders who have caused political unrest and social disorder every hour in South Korea are none other than the oppressors. However, those concerned cannot, through slanderous propaganda, mislead public opinion at home and abroad that has sympathized with and supported the mass movement in South Korea, nor can they overcome a political crisis through suppressive measures.

In a statement issued on 4 November, the Youth Federation of the Movement for Democratization in South Korea said that it cannot dispel feelings of resentment, regret, and shame with regard to the fictitious incidents concocted by the authorities, and pledged that it would never slacken its efforts to forge ahead with the cause of democracy.

Where there is oppression, there is resistance. The mass movement for democracy, which has been strengthened and developed in South Korea, is a natural answer to suppressive measures that have become intensified with the passage of time. Only when social and political life in South Korea is democratized can the political crisis be overcome. This is only feasible under circumstances in which the suppression of democratic forces is stopped, in which unjustly arrested and imprisoned political prisoners are released, in which freedom of the press, assembly, demonstration, and political activities is guaran-

teed. If those concerned listen to the voice of the masses demanding democracy, they will be able to overcome the crisis. If they step up the suppression of the people, the crisis will be deepened. Oppressors are not safe at any time. The present South Korean rulers should stop suppressing the people and behave discreetly.

ROUNDTABLE TALKS ON FUTURE OF CONFEDERAL STATE

SK220800 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Roundtable talk between Madam Yun Chong-won and two unidentified speakers -- one male and one female: "The Future of the Confederal State."]

[Text] [Unidentified female speaker] Today, the most urgent desire of our nation is to end the tragedy of the division and to make the compatriots of the North and South live in harmony as a single family.

[Unidentified male speaker] You are absolutely right. Today, with regard to this, we will discuss with Madam Yun Chong-won the future of the confederal state in which the supreme desire of our nation will be realized. How are you, Madam Yun?

[Madam Yun Chong-won] How are you?

[Male speaker] If the confederal state is established and its just and fair political programs are implemented, our people will realize their national desire. With regard to this, we would appreciate it if you would speak about the future of the confederal state?

[Yun] Yes. If the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK] is established, above all, our nation will achieve sovereignty as a whole, and the people will live with national dignity. There will be no interference and control by outside forces; thus, all policies will be worked out and implemented in conformity with national interest. In the international community, too, an independent and neutral foreign policy will be sought. Then no one will attempt to challenge our country. In addition, our country will (? participate in international meetings) with a single title and a single flag, and will be engaged in activities for the common interests of our nation. If our country can express its opinion in the international community as a single unified country and as a single representative of the nation for the national interest, this will no doubt serve the interest of our nation and the interest of world peace and security.

[Female speaker] If the confederal state is established, our country will achieve sovereignty as a whole and will also be able to accelerate development in the economic field as well. our country is (?small) but has rich underground and marine resources. Therefore, if these resources are developed in a uniform manner and utilized effectively, our people will be able to live a happy life. Above all, if North-South collaboration and exchanges are realized, and North and the South will be able to satisfy each other's needs and the economies of the North and South will be able to complement each other, establishing a firm foundation for a self-reliant national economy. For instance, if rich mineral resources in the North and the South are jointly developed, the materials for the (?steel industry) can be supplied independently. At the same time, if coal resources in the North are developed for joint utilization, there will be no need to import coal from other countries. [Passage indistinct]

[Yun] At the same time, if the fishing zones of the North and South are jointly developed, the fishermen of the North and the South will be able to come and go freely between the three seas and fish throughout the four seasons.

[Male speaker] If the North and the South realize collaboration and exchanges, I think the agriculture of the South can also be further developed. As everyone knows, the North has gained profound experiences in the field of agriculture through irrigation and mechanization. Therefore, if the experiences of the North are introduced in the South, I think the agriculture of the South can be further developed.

[Yun] That is true. Indeed, the North has gained profound experiences in the field of agriculture. It is offering farm implements and agricultural technology to African countries. Under these circumstances, if farm implements produced by the North are utilized in the South, the farmers of the South will be able to do their farm work with machines and avoid drought and flood damage. Then, our country will become fully self-supporting in food supply.

[Female speaker] Yes. In addition, if the North and South realize collaboration and exchanges and develop the national economy in a uniform manner, the residents of the South will be able to enjoy stable lives. All those able to work will have jobs, and the North and South will be able to jointly organize and operate companies and markets through collaboration. I think that joint-venture companies between the North and South can be organized and operated in various forms. Of course, the North has no private enterprises but only state-run and cooperatives enterprises, because it is under the socialist economic system. However, if the confederal state is established, I think joint-venture enterprises can be established between the state-run and private enterprises of the South and the State-run and cooperative enterprises of the North.

[Male speaker] Yes. For instance, I think a North-South joint-venture steel company can be established. This company can jointly develop the iron ore and coal in the North, can export them to foreign markets, and can supply raw materials for the steel industry at home. I think such joint-venture companies can be established in other fields as well. This will make the work of enterprises and the market circulation active, greatly contributing to the livelihood of the people.

[Yun] Yes. I think that the North and the South can operate markets jointly. With regard to the joint markets, the North and South will be able to sell their goods freely and trade with each other. At the same time, with the joint markets, people can buy and sell the special products of the North and South. I think that the joint markets can be operated smoothly because they will be operated by the same compatriots.

[Female speaker] Yes. At the same time, if North-South cooperation is realized, (?the North and the South will be able to exchange their experiences gained in the development of science and technology) and scientists and technicians will be able to pioneer new fields of science and technology for the (?development) of our country. At the same time, a joint study can be conducted on the culture and art of our ancestors to develop them further.

[Yun] If the North and the South realize collaboration and exchanges, I think that great development will certainly be achieved can participate in international sports events by forming single teams. By so doing, our country can display the great might of our people. We indeed feel pain when we see the North and South confront each other in international sports events, as if they are people from alien countries. I think that we can fully display the might of our country's sports, if we participate in international sports events under the flag of a unified country. At the same time, if the artists of the North and South realize cooperation and exchanges, we can further develop our national art and boost its superiority at home and abroad.

[Male speaker] Yes. Indeed, if our country is reunified through the implementation of the proposal for the establishment of a confederal state put forth by the great President Kim Il-song, and if the political programs are implemented in the political, economic, and other fields, our country will be able to glorify its dignity in the international community as a proud independent and sovereign state. I think we must more boldly turn out in the struggle to establish a confederal state in order to realize such a bright future. Thank you.

[Female speaker] Thank you.

[Yun] Thank you.

EDITORIAL ON ECONOMIC PROPAGANDA-AGITATION WORK

SK230755 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2118 GMT 21 Nov 85

[NODONG SINMUN 22 November editorial: "Let Us Much More Vigorously Carry Out the Propaganda and Agitation Work of Forging Ahead With Socialist Economic Construction"]

[Text] Today our people are vigorously struggling to implement this year's plan for the people's economy ahead of schedule in the spirit of greeting the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland and the founding of the party with high political zeal and with a brilliant labor success. We should bring about a great upsurge in socialist economic construction by further promoting the heightened zeal of masses. The situation in which the struggle for socialist economic construction has been waged vigorously demands that propaganda and agitation work be strengthened more than ever before to implement the party's economic plan. The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il recently set forth the militant task of vigorously forging ahead with the implementation of this year's plan for the people's economy by helping party organizations at all levels and party functionaries aggressively carry out the propaganda and agitation work of forging ahead with socialist economic construction.

Forging ahead with socialist economic construction by developing the revolutionary zeal of the masses by vigorously carrying out propaganda and agitation work is one of the important missions of our party's ideological work.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: Vigorously forging ahead with socialist economic construction by developing the revolutionary zeal of the masses is an important mission in the party's ideological work.

Socialist economic construction advances successfully when the production masses, the masters of socialist economic construction, rise up voluntarily. Only when we help party members and workers develop their voluntary zeal by strengthening propaganda and agitation work can we firmly consolidate the socialist material and technical foundation and smoothly perform the present economic tasks. The current situation in which the struggle to implement this year's plan for the people's economy has been waged vigorously at socialist construction sites urgently demands that the propaganda and agitation work of encouraging the masses be carried out much more vigorously. With burning loyalty for the party and the leader, our party members and workers are devoting their strength and wisdom to the cause of thoroughly performing the task set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year's message and of implementing the party's economic policy.

The goals that we should achieve this year are clear, and the material and technical guarantee for achieving these goal has been provided firmly. Success in socialist economic construction depends on how we continuously and vigorously develop the high revolutionary zeal of the masses. The important thing in vigorously carrying out the propaganda and agitation work of forging ahead with socialist economic construction is, above all, to correctly determine the target of propaganda and agitation work and to intensively direct our fire toward this target.

Our party's propaganda and agitation work is to implement the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teachings. Propaganda and agitation work should become the work of thoroughly implementing the party's economic policy, and the firing of propaganda and agitation work should be aimed at the implementation of the party's economic policy. Party organizations should firmly grasp the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teaching and the party's economic policy -- the materialization of these teachings -- should determine the target of propaganda and agitation work to resolve the problems demanded by the leader and the party, and should focus political propaganda and economic agitation on this target.

For the time being, we should concentrate on normalizing production on a high level in the metal and mining industry sectors and on helping the railway transportation sector smoothly meet the increasing transportation demands.

The source of strength in producing the spirit of matchless devotion and heroism in performing economic task rests with faithfulness for the party and the leader. Party organizations and functionaries should concentrate on highly displaying faithfulness for the party and the leader in performing economic tasks and should intensively launch a propaganda and agitation offensive.

Socialist economic construction is the difficult and complicated fighting process of remodeling nature. In this process we may face difficulties, and various knotty problems crop up. Party organizations should positively carry out propaganda and agitation work in order to help all party members and workers perform the assigned revolutionary tasks in a responsible manner, highly display the revolutionary fighting spirit of self-reliance, and independently resolve problems which occur.

The propaganda and agitation work of forging ahead with socialist economic construction should become one that indoctrinates and encourages party members and workers from beginning to end. Ideological work is, in principle, the work of developing men's ideologies, and, by so doing, we can brilliantly perform our assigned revolutionary tasks. Instead of being trapped in administrative and working-level questions under the pretext of forging ahead with economic work, party organizations and propaganda functionaries should primarily be concerned about the work of indoctrinating and encouraging people.

To effectively carry out the political work of forging ahead with economic work -- the work of developing and encouraging men's ideology -- party propaganda functionaries should always deeply mingle with the production masses. Thus, they should closely understand the situation, should study how to resolve problems raised by carrying out propaganda and agitation work, and should take correct measures.

To vigorously forge ahead with socialist economic construction, we should aggressively carry out propaganda and agitation work by using various forms and methods. Propaganda and agitation work is carried out under different conditions with party members and workers who have different revolutionary missions and different degrees of preparedness as targets. Therefore, we should not stick to inflexible forms and should not be superficial. Experience shows that when we carry out propaganda and agitation work in a fresh and effective manner by using various forms and methods, we can greatly move the people and bring about an upsurge in production. By mingling with the masses and carrying knapsacks, just as the political functionaries of the anti-Japanese guerrilla units did, party functionaries should vigorously carry out propaganda and agitation work by using various forms and methods, such as oral propaganda and artistic agitation.

Setting and generalizing an affirmative example is a superior method of ideological indoctrination and is a powerful form of agitation. By vigorously carrying out propaganda and agitation work by setting an affirmative example, party organizations and functionaries should help the masses rise as one to implement the party's economic policy. Showing an example is a powerful method of agitation. One-time practice rather than 100 words can encourage the masses with greater effect. While setting a practical example among the masses, party propaganda functionaries should clearly explain and conduct propaganda on the party's intent. Thus, they should make the party's voice sound among the masses and should help the masses move in accordance with the party's breathing.

The important thing in vigorously carrying out the propaganda and agitation work of forging ahead with socialist economic construction is to correctly turn this work into party committee type work. Just as the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out, propaganda and agitation work is one of the important missions of party committees.

Party organizations should strengthen guidance in such a way that party committees collectively discuss important problems arising in propaganda and agitation work, establish correct measures for these problems, and sum up the implementation of these measures in a regular manner. In particular, responsible functionaries of party committees of all levels should directly control and command propaganda and agitation work and concentrate major efforts on correctly conducting joint operations among departments of party committees at all levels.

Propaganda and agitation work directed to the broad masses cannot be properly carried out by the efforts of some party functionaries alone. Our functionaries are indoctrinators of the masses, and propaganda and agitation work is the duty of functionaries.

The party has already presented the slogan "Let the entire party become propaganda and agitation personnel." Party organizations should correctly plan and coordinate organizational work so that all functionaries, including administrative and economic functionaries and functionaries of public organizations, primary functionaries, and primary political functionaries, can actively join propaganda and agitation work to accelerate socialist economic construction.

To this end, party functionaries should correctly give assignments of propaganda and agitation work to these functionaries in conformity with assigned revolutionary duty and the degree of their preparedness, should sum up the implementation status of propaganda and agitation work in a timely manner, and should constantly deepen and develop propaganda and agitation work in such a way as summing up and rearranging it and in conformity with the demands of developing reality.

In accelerating this year's national economic plan, it is very important to strengthen propaganda and agitation work. Therefore, all party organizations and functionaries should conduct propaganda and agitation work in an up-to-date, substantial, vigorous, and aggressive manner so that they can vigorously carry out socialist economic construction, and this year's national economic plan in particular.

KIL CHAE-KYONG, DELEGATION RETURN FROM AFRICA

SK230435 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Pyongyang November 23 (KCNA) -- The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea led by Kil Chae-kyong, vice-director of a department of its Central Committee, flew back home Friday after a visit to Zambia, Malawi, Botswana and Zimbabwe. It was met at the airport by Vice-Director of a department of the WPK Central Committee Kwon Min-chun.

HWANG CHANG-YOP, DELEGATION RETURN FROM EUROPE

SK230431 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Pyongyang November 23 (KCNA) -- The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea led by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of its Central Committee, flew back home on November 22 after a visit to Switzerland, France and Greece. It was met at the airport by Ho Chong-suk, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Nikilay Shubnikov, Soviet ambassador to Korea.

POLICE ON INDEFINITE ALERT AGAINST SEIZURES

SK240155 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] The national police were put yesterday on an alert for an indefinite period nationwide against possible repetition of students' seizure of public institutions and, especially, against assaults on leading figures of the ruling camp.

In a special instruction, Pak Pae-kun, director general of the National Police Headquarters, ordered the mobilization of police forces onto campuses, if necessary. "Police should see to it that street protesters be apprehended on the spot and arrested," he said. The directive came several days after 191 students stormed into the training center of the ruling DJP and staged a violent sit-in, setting part of the facility on fire. Wary that terrorism might be resorted to by student activists to attack leading politicians, Pak also instructed that police troops be stationed to protect them, depending on situations.

He told police commanders and staff to remain on duty until the alert is dissolved and to prepare themselves for a joint crackdown on contingencies in cooperation with other relevant authorities. Security arrangements were tightened around armories at police stations. Checks will be intensified against inns, eateries and other public places to ferret out wanted students and those who carry "impure" leaflets, placards and fire bombs, police said.

FIVE DISSIDENTS ARRESTED FOR 'INCITING' UNREST

SK230830 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP) -- Five dissidents, whose arrest warrants had been sought by the prosecution on charges of inciting campus unrest, were formally placed under arrest Saturday. Their charges stemmed from allegedly inflammatory remarks at an anti-government student rally at Seoul National University (SNU) Thursday. They were charged with breaking the law governing assembly and demonstrations, a charge punishable by a maximum prison term of five years or a fine of up to 2 million won. The five include Kim Pyong-o, 50, vice secretary of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy (CPD); So Ho-sok, 49, director of the CPD's Human Rights Bureau; Yi Chong-nam, 66, chairman of the CPD's Steering Committee; and Mrs. Han Yong-ae, 44, director of the opposition New Democratic Korea Party's Civil Rights Bureau. The CPD is a dissident organization co-chaired by Kim Tae-Chung and Kim Yong-sam.

WOLFOWITZ BRIEFS OFFICIAL ON U.S.- SOVIET SUMMIT

SK250802 Seoul YONHAP in English 0758 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (OANA-YONHAP) -- Paul Wolfowitz, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, Monday briefed South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok on the U.S. - Soviet summit meeting held last week in Geneva. Wolfowitz told Yi about the results of the U.S.-Soviet foreign ministers' meeting, which reportedly dealt with the Korean question, Korean Foreign Ministry officials said. The U.S. official flew into Seoul Monday afternoon, after visiting Japan and China.

In Tokyo, Wolfowitz told Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe that although U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev did not discuss the Korean question in their summit talks, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze dealt with the question. On Monday evening, Wolfowitz will attend a dinner hosted by Prime Minister No Sin-yong. Wolfowitz is scheduled to leave Korea Tuesday.

SPK REFUTES THAI CHARGES ON INTRUSIONS

BK230643 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1109 GMT 22 Nov 85

["Lie" -- SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 22 -- The recent charge by Thailand that Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops had intruded into Thailand and killed a Thai marine officer and wounded a ranger was another slanderous story conducted to cover up Thailand's hostility to the Kampuchean people. Facts, however, speak louder than words. In the seven years since the overthrow of the blood-thirsty regime of Pol Pot, the Thai military have followed the Chinese expansionists and the U.S. imperialists in opposing the People's Republic of Kampuchea. They have allowed Polpotist remnants and other Khmer reactionaries to operate from Thai territory and provided their infiltrations with artillery cover.

More serious still, Thai troops have many times intruded into Kampuchea. One such deliberate intrusion occurred on October 5 during which three Thai troops were captured by Kampuchean border guards. At first, the Thai Foreign Ministry vehemently charged Vietnam with "abduction." Later, however, Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander, General Athit Kamlang-ek, had to admit that the Thai men were accidentally trespassing.

There is no denying that the men in Bangkok have become more and more hostile to Kampuchea, that they are preparing for further direct involvement in this country. Not long ago two high ranking U.S. officials visited Thailand to plan for the building of logistical facilities. Then there was the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to "refugee camps" near the Thai-Kampuchean border. Again, a few days after the visit of Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing, Athit Kamlang-ek told journalists in Bangkok on November 16 that China would provide Thailand with massive military aid.

Thailand's blatant intervention in Kampuchea's affairs has been strongly condemned by the Kampuchean people and sternly criticized by the world public. A spokesman for the PRK Foreign Ministry on Wednesday declared: "It is publicly known that Bangkok's perfidious and slanderous allegation against Kampuchea and Vietnam are aimed at covering up the criminal acts of the Thai authorities and preparing opinion for an intensification of its customary hostility against the Kampuchean people."

For their part, Vietnamese officials, among them Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, has firmly rejected all slanderous charges about Vietnamese troops encroaching on Thai territory. So, whatever the stories Bangkok may cook up, it cannot alter the fact that it is willing tool of Beijing and Washington. The People's Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea, in cooperation with the Vietnamese Volunteer Army will take necessary measures to counter any interference from any quarter.

THAI DAILY: KPNLF SAYS 'NOT YET' ON PRK TALKS

BK230428 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 85 p 5

[Text] The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) believes the time is not yet right for the proposed "cocktail party" with the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin regime. A spokesman of the KPNLF said his faction does not reject the idea proposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the president of the Khmer coalition. He said such a meeting should take place when Vietnam began to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. "We know that ASEAN and the resistance force have to talk with Heng Samrin and Vietnam some day but not for the time being," said the spokesman.

The comment was in response to a statement by Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja early this week that Indonesia is willing to host a cocktail party to bring together the three Khmer resistance factions with the Heng Samrin regime, as Sihanouk suggested, without other participants. Mokhtar said in an interview the informal meeting over champagne and pastries should involve "only Kampucheans" and that the purpose be limited to national reconciliation.

The prince suggested in Paris last September that the French Government should host a meeting of all factions and countries involved in the Kampuchean conflict. The French Government, however, has been reticent about Sihanouk's proposal. The KPNLF spokesman said Mokhtar made the statement to pre-empt the possibility of France accepting the hosting. "ASEAN does not want the solution of the Kampuchean problem to fall into other countries' hands," said the spokesman. He said the KPNLF sees that what should be pursued now is the ASEAN-proposed proximity talks.

HENG SAMKAI ATTENDS SEND-OFF CEREMONY FOR CADRES

BK230332 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] A grand ceremony was held on the morning of 14 November in front of the office of Svay Rieng Provincial People's Revolutionary Committee to send off cadres and combatants of Battalion No. 16 who valiantly volunteered to fulfill a new mission. Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Heng Samkai, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Svay Rieng provincial party committee, noted:

Our cadres and combatants of Svay Rieng Province have fought valiantly and scored many victories in the struggle to ensure stability for our people. Now, our comrades have volunteered to fulfill a new mission in contribution to national defense and construction in order to make our fatherland advance rapidly toward socialism.

The comrade stressed: To successfully fulfill this mission, all comrades present here must firmly consolidate unity among themselves, with the nearby units, and between them and the Vietnamese Army volunteers. In particular, the comrades must be disciplined and behave well toward the local authorities and people, thus rendering themselves worthy of being members of the new Army who were born from the people and fight for the interests of the people.

In response to this valuable advice, a representative of the unit pledged to strive hard to successfully fulfill all tasks assigned by the party and people making whatever sacrifice is necessary. The ceremony ended after the commander of the unit received a number of gifts and bouquets of flowers on behalf of all unit members.

PARTY CIRCULAR ON 7TH KUFNCD ANNIVERSARY

BK221240 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Nov 85

[20 November circular of the party Central Committee on the organization of the 7th founding anniversary of KUFNCD]

[Text] The founding date of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation, presently renamed the KUFNCD, is 2 December 1978. We are celebrating the 7th founding anniversary of the front after the PRK's successful fifth party congress. The victory of the fifth party congress is the victory of the solidarity and unity of the entire people under the party's leadership. This victory is also a victory of the bonds of international solidarity, especially the ties of Cambodia-Vietnam solidarity. Therefore, the organization of the founding anniversary of the KUFNCD this year is aimed at achieving the following goals:

1. To present clearly the great achievements of the Cambodian revolution during the past 7 years in the defense of the fatherland and the rebirth of the country, the nation, and the Cambodian people, who have united in the KUFNCD under the KPRP's leadership.
2. To heighten the hatred of our people toward the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique -- the lackeys of the Beijing Chinese -- and all types of Cambodian reactionaries. To denounce the maneuvers of divisiveness and tricky propaganda under the reactionary label of national reconciliation, peace, and neutrality.
3. To strengthen further the national solidarity forces. To heighten the spirit of our people as the masters of the country. To advance further the three revolutionary movements. To be ready and determined to implement successfully the resolution of the fifth party congress aimed at defending national independence and constructing the Cambodian fatherland step by step through the transitional period toward socialism.
4. To strengthen international solidarity, especially the Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos bonds of solidarity, which are the determining factors ensuring the victory of the Cambodian revolution and the three revolutions on the Indochinese Peninsula.

The forms and the measures of the organization of the celebration:

The front must cooperate with various mass organizations and all levels of the state power to implement well the following work and activities:

1. The front must cooperate with various mass organizations to hold regular meetings of various mass organizations and the front's combatants in conformity with the spirit of Directive No. 353 of the party Central Committee Secretariat and the directive of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission aimed at disseminating broadly the victory of the fifth party congress and the results of the work of various mass organizations and the front in 1985.

2. To encourage the masses, to intensify the emulation movement, to implement the declaration of the 12th party Central Committee plenum in all its ramification, and to create achievements to welcome the 7th founding anniversary of the front and the 7th anniversary of the historic 7 January victory. It is necessary to pay attention to a number of the following jobs:

-- to encourage workers to achieve well the 1985 plan in 1985.

-- to encourage peasants to participate actively in agricultural production in the dry season and to ask peasants to harvest and gather the paddy and sell it to the state.

-- to intensify the women's and Buddhist monks' movements. To continue to implement more vigorously the movement to persuade misled persons to return to live with their families and the national community.

3. To pay attention to and to assist the families of combatants; of workers participating in the national defense work; and of fallen, and disabled and elderly combatants. In particular, it is necessary to pay attention to various localities that are currently encountering problems caused by lack of foodstuffs. To oppose superstition, gambling, and extravagance actively. To construct a way of life based on hard work, thrift, and cleanliness.

To organize meetings in Phnom Penh and various provinces and towns to emphasize on the victory of the Cambodian revolution, to heighten the bonds of national and international solidarity, and to inform and encourage the people so that they will be able to implement successfully the resolution of the fifth party congress.

4. After implementing the spirit of this circular, all levels of the front must send their reports to the office of the KUFNCD National Council. These reports will be summarized and sent to the party Central Committee Secretariat.

Slogans:

1. To acclaim the 7th founding anniversary of the KUFNCD.
2. Long live the 2 December spirit!
3. The entire people are united and are making every effort to implement successfully the resolution of the fifth party congress.
4. Long live the long-lasting Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos bonds of solidarity and the ties of solidarity among Cambodia, the Soviet Union, and various socialist countries.
5. Long live the PRK!
6. Long live the glorious KPRP!

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 20 November 1985

[Signed] For the party Central Committee, General Secretary Heng Samrin

RICE PRODUCTION FIGURES ANNOUNCED AT MEETING

BK201455 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1137 GMT 20 Nov 85

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 20 -- Kampuchea has carried out 78 percent of the planting plan for the 1984-85 monsoon by planting rice on 1,330,080 ha. This year crop was not so good because of long mid-monsoon drought in certain provinces. Mondolkiri, Kratie and Kampot took the lead by exceeding the plan respectively 2, 7, and 2 percent. Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey covered only 150,700 ha, or 91 percent of the plan while Ratanakiri planted 13,700 ha. (91 percent) and Battambang put under crop 190,000 ha. (61 percent). The figures were released at a meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture held recently in Phnom Penh. Speaking on the occasion, Premier Hun Sen laid stress on the necessity to promote production by concentrating on subsidiary food crops, rubber, forestry and fishing.

VONADK COMMUNIQUE REPORTS SRV TROOP ARRIVALS

BK220205 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 21 Nov 85

[21 November communique of the DK National Army Supreme Command]

[Text] The Vietnamese authorities sent additional troops to the battlefield of aggression in Cambodia.

1. From 27 October to 10 November, the Vietnamese authorities sent 10,000 fresh troops from the east to Pursat Province together with 40 T-54 tanks. These troops and tanks were sent steadily to the western border battlefield.

2. From 24 to 29 October, they sent more than 10,000 fresh troops from the east to the town of Battambang and to western Battambang together with 42 T-54 tanks and many artillery pieces. Some of these fresh troops, tanks, and artillery are engaged in activities protecting the town of Battambang while the bulk is engaged in operations on the Pailin battlefield.
3. From 17 to 25 October, they sent a division of additional fresh troops from the east to Mkak Prieu along Route 69 in Sisophon District.
4. On 13 November, they sent 1,200 fresh troops from the east to Chamka Kroch, Amleang, and Thnal Totoeng on the northwestern Phnom Penh battlefield.
5. In total, from late October to mid-November, the Vietnamese authorities sent more than 10,000 [as heard] additional fresh troops as well as another division to Cambodia. We have noted that from late October to mid-November they sent over 10,000 troops and a division more than in previous months; and they are still sending more troops.

This clearly shows that the vociferous claims by the Vietnamese aggressors pretending that they are partially withdrawing troops from Cambodia are merely blatant lies, for in fact each month and each season they bring more fresh troops into Cambodia according to their strategic design to swallow and occupy Cambodia permanently.

21 November 1985

[Signed] The Supreme Command of the Democratic Kampuchean National Army.

VOICE OF KHMER ON SRV SEIZURE OF HILL BASES

BK240146(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] News sources of the Voice of the Khmer revealed that Vietnamese troops had seized military bases of the DK side's forces set up on strategic hills near the Cambodian-Thai border in western Cambodia. The Vietnamese forces attacked and occupied three hills, namely Phnum Dong, Phnum Deng, and Phnum Saravan, after an attack on a DK side unit there early last week. These hills are about 2 km from the Cambodian-Thai border.

According to various news sources, the fighting between the Vietnamese troops and the DK side's resistance group on these three strategic hills was very fierce. Reports on casualties from the battle have yet to be received. These three strategic hills were held by a unit of some 200 fighters of the DK side's forces. The sources of the Voice of the Khmer said that sporadic exchanges of artillery and small arms fire between Thai forces and Vietnamese troops took place and several Thai soldiers and villagers have been injured since the Vietnamese troops started attacks last week.

Prasong Sumsiri, general secretary of the National Security Council of Thailand, said that guerrilla attacks of the Cambodian resistance groups against the Vietnamese troops in the interior of Cambodia had for the moment prevented Hanoi from launching its dry season offensive against the resistance in the west of Cambodia.

The sources of the DK side claimed that its forces attacked and destroyed a Vietnamese military garrison located near the market of Trank Kak District, Takeo Province, close to the Vietnamese border south of Phnom Penh. The radio of the DK side claimed that 10 Vietnamese soldiers were killed and 15 others were wounded in the offensive last weekend. No independent news sources could confirm the veracity of this report by the DK side's radio.

BANGKOK POST ON MOVEMENT OF SRV TROOPS

BK250217 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] Ta Phraya, Prachin Buri--Vietnamese troops have been moved to the northwest of Thmar Puok, a Kampuchean border district, and are believed to be planning attacks on military camps of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. A source from the 5,000-man KPNLF army under chief-of-staff Gen Dien Del said yesterday that the Vietnamese troops were believed to be from the Fifth Division. With support from artillery, tanks and armoured personnel carriers, they might attack KPNLF [Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front] positions along the Kampuchean border opposite this district and Lahansai District of Buriram.

The Fifth Division last dry season attacked Ampil, Ritthisen and Prey Chan camps. The troop concentration was also a threat to Site Two civilian camp, which houses more than 120,000 Kampucheans. The source revealed that the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin regime has failed to recruit young men to train as regular soldiers although it has increased its military budget to train 180,000 young Kampucheans. However, it has only managed to train between 70-80,000 troops so far. This failure is due to internal problems, an inadequate harvest and the fact that officials under Heng Samrin are not satisfied that the regime is controlled by Vietnam.

SRV LANDMINES 'MAJOR PROBLEM' FOR FARMERS

BK250255 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 85 p 2

[Text] Aranyaprathet--Boobytraps and landmines planted by Vietnamese soldiers are posing a major problem to farmers in several Thai border villages along the frontier with Kampuchea in the southern part of this district.

A senior military official here told THE NATION that Vietnamese boobytraps and landmines have been hampering harvest of rice in paddy fields adjacent to Khlong Nam Sai canal which demarcates the border between Thailand and Kampuchea south of this key border town. The official, who declined to be identified, said the Vietnamese-laid minefields were aimed at preventing infiltration by Khmer resistance guerrillas whose strongholds fell to Hanoi's troops during the past dry season. According to district officials, this month is the beginning of the paddy harvest season.

The military official said parts of the paddy fields adjacent to Khlong Nam Sai canal stretching about 12-15 kilometres on the Thai-Kampuchean frontier in Pak Hong, Khok Sabaeng and Nong Ian villages are the areas mostly affected by the Vietnamese minefields. The three border villages, about 15-17 kilometres south of here, are located in an area bulging into Kampuchea. According to the military official an incident in which one villager was killed and his wife wounded early last week has frightened the border villagers who have become afraid of dangers of Vietnamese boobytraps planted in their paddy fields. He said the villagers have to tie their cattle to prevent them from strolling into the border areas. A number of cows and buffaloes have been wounded after the Vietnamese seizure of the Khmer Rouge strongholds south of here.

The military official said the Burapha Force, which is responsible for border security in Prachin Buri Province, at the end of last month started an operation to scour the border area in search of the Vietnamese landmines and boobytraps.

The officials said special military bomb experts have been deployed for the operation in which one soldier has been killed and eight others wounded.

The latest incident took place Saturday when a ranger was seriously wounded by landmines in the border area of Ta Phraya District north of here. His leg was severed, added the official.

The military official said the Burapa Force was able to defuse and collect about 30-40 landmines and boobytraps since the beginning of the operation. He said the anti-personnel boobytraps are very difficult to detect because most of them were covered with plastic fibre or pieces of wood. He said most of landmines and boobytraps were planted on dikes which serve as walking paths for the farmers in the paddy fields. According to the official, the Thai soldiers sometimes have to use their hands to grope in the bushes in search of the bombs before defusing them.

The senior military official also reported the Vietnamese military movement near the Thai border but said he expected the Vietnamese offensive against the Khmer resistance guerrillas deeper inside Kampuchea. He said the resistance guerrillas are currently operating deeper inside Kampuchea usually more than five kilometres from the Thai border.

SITTHI STATEMENT ON PREM-KISSINGER MEETING

BK220820 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 21 Nov 85

[21 November statement to newsmen by Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila at Government House after accompanying former U. S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to a meeting with Prime Minister Prem--recorded]

[Text] Dr Kissinger wanted to know about our problems, especially problems related to the situation in Cambodia. He supports our policy. He inquired about what is going on Cambodia. The secretary general of the National Security Council reported to him about the situation. Fighting is now taking place deeper inside Cambodia. There are no more Cambodian soldier camps at the Thai border. Vietnam has deployed nine divisions close to the Thai border and it always maintains nearly 200,000 troops in Cambodia. It is therefore believed that the fighting will continue inside Cambodia. Concerning Site II camp which is on the Thai border, the secretary general of the National Security Council said there are only civilians left now. Dr Kissinger will visit the area tomorrow.

Dr Kissinger expressed great concern for the burden Thailand has to shoulder. As an old friend, he has great sympathy for us and praised Thailand for adhering to a correct principle. He asked us about the problems we have and how he can be of help to us. The prime minister cited economic problems as our major problem, especially with the increasing protectionist trend in the form of laws and restrictions on more trade items which I do not want to specify. Dr Kissinger said that he would raise the problem if he meets with people in the U. S. Government, major U. S. companies, congressmen or senators. He would tell them about our difficulties, about our burden despite the fact that we have to cope with a threat to our security. As a free country on the front line, Thailand needs to be strong economically to continue its present role.

Prasong, Kissinger Visit Camps

BK230649 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 85 p 2

[Text] Ta Phraya--Thailand yesterday asked former U. S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger to help direct the attention of western donor countries to the "Kampuchean victims" on the Thai-Kampuchean border instead of to the pro-Hanoi regime in Phnom Penh.

The request was made by Secretary General of the National Security Council Prasong Sunsiri while he accompanied Kissinger at Khao-I-Dang refugee holding centre and the so-called Site II, an evacuation site for displaced Khmers on the Thai-Kampuchean border here.

Prasong said he wants the donor countries to concentrate on displaced Kampucheans, fleeing the war in the Kampuchean interior to the Thai border, instead of the reconstruction of Vietnamese-controlled Kampuchea. "The real victims of the Kampuchean war are here on the Thai-Khmer border," he said.

Thou Thon, a leader of about 55,000 displaced Kampucheans from Ritthisen, who are being sheltered in the southern part of Site II, told Kissinger that assistance from the donor countries to the Phnom Penh Regime has been increasing each year. Prasong also asked for Kissinger's help in carrying out a plan to assist the education of Khmer children being sheltered on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

According to Prasong, his plan to help the education in Khmer culture and language of 2,000-3,000 Khmer children would cost 2,000-3,000 [currency not given] at the beginning.

Kissinger said at a press conference after his border visit that he would raise the Kampuchean refugee issue with U.S. Congress leaders and seek more assistance for the refugees.

On his arrival at Site II, Kissinger was greeted by several thousands displaced Kampucheans who chanted "USA number one," "We want to go home" and waved several posters calling on the U.S. to help make Vietnamese withdraw from Kampuchea. Site II, located more than 30 kilometres from Sanro-changan Village in this border district, is a temporary residence for more than 130,000 Khmer civilians from the Ritthisen, Ampil, Prey Chan, Ta Ok and Prasat Tbeng encampments of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) which were wiped out by the Vietnamese offensive during the past dry season. About 3,000 Vietnamese 'landpeople' are also being sheltered as Site II.

KPNLF vice president, Gen Dien Del, who appeared at the southern part of Site II to welcome Kissinger, informed the former U.S. secretary of state about 15,000 displaced Kampucheans at Site II had fled the Kampuchean provinces of Battambang, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey, while the rest were from the Kampuchean interior and the Kampuchean capital of Phnom Penh.

Dien Del also reaffirmed that the site is a civilian camp on Thai soil and there are no KPNLF guerrillas in the camp. Dien Del, who also holds the position of KPNLF chief of the general staff, asked Kissinger to help dissuade the Vietnamese from attacking or shelling Site II. "If the Vietnamese attack Site I, they will violate Thai sovereignty and there will be a big war with Thailand," he said. "I'm sure that the western countries will help Thailand and China will do something on Vietnam's northern frontier. Vietnam has to think twice before attacking Site II," added Dien Del.

Dien Del told Kissinger that the KPNLF bases have already been moved from the area near Site I. "Our troops have built several mobile bases far away from our civilian camp," he said. He said he was aware of Vietnamese military movements along the Thai-Kampuchean central border, but said there had been no Vietnamese reinforcements sent to the area.

From Site II, Kissinger went to Khao-I-Dang holding centre, where he was briefed by UN High Commissioner for Refugees officials. Kissinger also strolled around the compound of Khao-I-Dang and chatted with Kampuchean refugees who came out of their thatched huts to greet him. During his visit to the border, Kissinger showed his much interest in the plight of Kampuchean displaced persons and refugees by asking the relief officials several questions.

RELATIONS WITH LAOS IMPROVE 'TREMENDOUSLY'

BK230224 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] Relations between Thailand and Laos have improved tremendously over the past few months, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday. Spokesman Sawanit Khongsiri said that early this week the Thai government has lifted the embargo on 2,020 tons of asphalt products for Laos as a gesture of friendship. "It is the wish of this country to have good relations with its neighbours, particularly Laos," he added.

The asphalt products, donated by the Swedish and Japanese governments, would be transferred from Khlong Toei Port to Vientiane as soon as possible. The Swedish Government donated about 2,000 tons of asphalt for the construction of roads and Japan 20 tons for the construction of a medicine factory, the spokesman said.

Sawanit also said that during the United Nations sessions in New York recently, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and the Laotian Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut conversed in a friendly manner.

Phoun also gave a big farewell party to outgoing Thai Ambassador to Vientiane Somphong Faichampa, he said, adding that the new ambassador, Chaiya Chindawong, arrived in Vientiane yesterday. He said Thailand wants to trade with Laos as relations between the two countries have improved gradually. The Thai gesture came as the result of the toning down of Laos' polemics against Thailand and its leaders, as the two countries slowly recover from the wounds of a dispute over three disputed villages along the Thai-Lao border.

An informed source said that the remainder of 1,000 tons of asphalt will be allowed to enter Laos next year.

New Envoy to Laos

BK230846 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Thailand wants to maintain good relations with Laos, the Thai foreign minister was quoted as saying to new Ambassador to Laos Chaiya Chindawong recently. Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sawanit Khongsiri told the press conference today that newly-appointed Thai Ambassador to Laos Chaiya Chindawong, who has just gone to take up his post in Vientiane, earlier called on Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila at the Foreign Ministry. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi told Mr Chaiya to do his utmost in strengthening relations between Thailand and Laos.

157 FISHERMEN RELEASED FROM SRV RETURN TO BANGKOK

BK230558 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 85 p 18

[Excerpt] It was a moment of tearful joy for 157 Thai fishermen and their families and friends at Don Muang Airport last night after the men were released from Vietnam. The crewmen were among 307 Vietnam said would be released on Wednesday. The second batch will arrive in Bangkok tomorrow after being serving jail terms of up to two years for reportedly violating Vietnamese waters.

The crewmen came from trawlers from Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Rayong, Trat and Songkhla. One of the released fishermen said that after Sunday's release there were still 249 Thais being detained at Taning Prison in the coastal province of Kien Giang.

NAEO NA EDITORIAL CRITICIZES MILITARY SPENDING

BK231500 Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 22 Nov 85 p 4

[Editorial "Unacceptable"]

[Text] The National Economic and Social Development Council and the national bank, a tool for monitoring the country's economic and financial temperature, have impulsively decided to break their long silence by appealing to the military top brass to open their eyes and accept the fact, as the civilians see it, that the country's economy is now in critical condition and urging them to help the country save foreign currency and contribute to the effort now being unilaterally exerted by the civilians to rescue the country from the economic storm that is plaguing the whole world. Unfortunately, the Armed Forces always cite national security to justify their spending.

The deputy defense minister has wasted no time in discrediting the appeal for frugality by saying that the military has never exceeded its allocated budget and always returns the money that is not spent to the government. He added that defense expenditures are made after a screening procedure. Regarding the foreign exchange required to purchase weapons and war equipment, he said that Thailand cannot make aircraft, warships, artillery pieces, and so forth, so it is necessary to buy all these things from foreign countries.

However, the deputy defense minister has failed to mention "the story behind" the allocation of such a huge annual defense budget or to say whether it is because of its influence that the military has been given the lion's share of the country's budget every year. The same minister also admitted that he did not know how important foreign exchange is to the country, now suffering from a foreign trade deficit and payments imbalance. He did not know how much foreign currency should be kept as a national reserve to prevent the country from falling into bankruptcy as Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and several other nations, which have no money to pay foreign debts, have done.

The military agency cannot produce or earn revenue for the country. On the contrary, it has spent a lot of money without listening to other people on many occasions. The purchase of the F-16 aircraft is an example of such unnecessary spending that has further depleted the country's national reserves. Although Thai soldiers often claim full knowledge of the country's economic condition, they have never made any effort to practice austerity. They always clamor about national security. They should know that every coin they use to buy weapons came from the sweat of the people, who have to work so hard to produce goods to sell to other countries.

Any excuse or attempt to discredit criticism of the military in this connection does not contribute to the effort now being made by our compatriots to solve the problem. We taxpayers cannot be satisfied with the mere acknowledgement of the country's economic difficulties by some military officers. We want action -- not lip service only.

Athit: Criticism Unfair

BK230106 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek yesterday blasted "unfair" criticism of defense spending and said the military was not a scapegoat. He said the military budget had been approved by Parliament and it was "unfair to accuse the Armed Forces of overspending because of an economic slump". In fact, he said, the Government should defend the budget because it was the one which approved it in the first place.

Gen Athit made his remarks in a lecture at Phra Mongkutklao Hospital when a doctor questioned him about last week's criticism of military overspending from top government economists.

National Economic and Social Development Board secretary-general Sano Unakun and Bank of Thailand deputy governor Chawalit Thanachanan blamed military spending as the cause of Thailand's swelling foreign debts. Dr Sano appealed to the Armed Forces to understand the country's deteriorating economic condition and prune its spending to avoid a crisis. The economists's call was echoed by former supreme-commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon, who said foreign loans for defence carried high interest and would neither benefit economic development, nor improve productivity.

However, Gen Athit insisted the military had tailored its budget to its needs, and said: "It's just strange that suddenly everyone makes it an issue." The supreme commander said the budget was not solely spent on expensive weaponry, and he cited development projects including the purchase of medical equipment for military hospitals. "The price for a brain-scanning machine alone is now as much as 30-40 million baht," Gen Athit said. The military, he said, never received as much as it wanted, and its budget proposals had been systematically trimmed since 1973. Gen Athit said the military appeared to have become a target for others in times of difficulty. This, he said, was unfair. "We are not scapegoats which anybody can put the blame on."

HUNGARIAN TRADE MINISTER MEETS PREM, SITTHI

BK211002 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 20 Nov 85

[Text] Foreign Trade Minister Peter Veress of the People's Republic of Hungary is paying a visit to Thailand from 19 to 24 November as guest of Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun. Mr Veress paid a courtesy call today on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon, Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun, and Foreign Minister Air Chief Mars' al Sitthi Sawetsila. Mr Veress also met today with Commerce Minister Koson Krairoek for talks on bilateral trade between Thailand and Hungary. The Hungarian foreign trade minister will tomorrow meet the president of the Thai parliament, the Thai industry minister, and representatives of the Thai private sector for discussions to find ways to boost trade ties between the two countries.

Committee Trade Established

BK220805 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 21 Nov 85

[Text] Thailand and Hungary agreed yesterday to set up a joint committee to work to increase their bilateral trade and reduce Thailand's trade deficit with the socialist country, Thai Deputy Commerce Minister Prayun Chindasin said. He said the agreement was signed in his talks with Hungarian Trade Minister Peter Veress, who arrived in Bangkok Tuesday for a 5-day official visit. Mr Prayun said the committee will meet every 2 years and seek ways to increase bilateral trade to \$30 million this year. Bilateral trade in the first 8 months of this year was 306.56 million baht, in Hungary's favor by 233 million baht.

PRC RADIO, TV DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK230946 Bangkok Domestic Television Service in Thai 1300 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Ma Qingxiong, PRC vice minister of radio and television; Wang Feng, director of the PRC central television station; and their party have arrived in Bangkok for a visit to Thailand 22-26 November before proceeding to Tunisia, Nigeria, and Egypt.

Their visit is to return a July visit to the PRC by a Thai radio and television delegation led by Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Police Lieutenant Chan Manutham.

Ma Qingxiong expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation by Pramut Sutabut, director of the mass communications organization of Thailand; Prawit Malin deputy assistant manager of Thai Television Channel 3; and senior officials of the Public Relations Department and the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He conveyed best wishes from PRC radio and television officials to the Thai mass media, especially to the staff of television channels 3 and 9. The PRC delegation will visit radio and television stations during its stay in Thailand.

PREM, ATHIT PLAN TO RESTRUCTURE SUPREME COMM ND

BK240200 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] The military plans to scrap the four top posts at the Supreme Command, leaving the armed forces chief-of-staff at the helm when Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek retires in 1987, informed sources told THE NATION yesterday. The sources said that Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and Gen Athit had agreed to the plan, which is tailored to strengthen the armed forces chief-of-staff role.

The abolition of the posts of supreme commander and three deputy supreme commanders, the sources said, would make the Thai military structure more compatible with those of Thailand's allies, particularly the U.S. where the president is ex supreme commander, and the chairman of the joint chief-of-staff is at the top of the military hierarchy.

The sources said that the next step following the gradual abolition of the four top posts is to make the prime minister ex officio supreme commander, the same way the U.S. president is supreme commander. According to the plan, the restructuring will be completed in October 1, 1987, when Gen Athit retires from military service. The plan is based on the assumption that Gen Athit's term will be renewed for the second year before he reaches retirement age next October.

The sources pointed out that because no military officers had been appointed to fill two vacant deputy supreme commander posts, it was apparent that the gradual revision had actually taken place and was now in progress. The only deputy supreme commander is Adm Supha Khotchaseni who represents the Royal Thai Navy. Gen Bunrit Thanthranon retired as deputy supreme commander of the army last October while Adm Arun Phromthep was moved to an inactive post at the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Defence as a result of his alleged involvement in the September 9 abortive coup. These two posts have been vacant ever since. Adm Supha Khotchaseni is due to retire at the end of September, 1987.

The restructuring plan has touched off speculation in military circles that Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut will be made armed forces chief-of-staff in the military reshuffle in 1987, according to the sources.

Barring unforeseen changes, Gen Athit would also propose the extension of Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Gen Banchop Bunnak's term, which is due to expire next October, to 1987, one source said. He said that the possibility of renewal of Gen Banchop's tenure stemmed from the fact that the Royal Thai Army (RTA) would be short of officers with the rank of full general at the end of next September.

The top-brass army officers due to retire next year include Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chuthai Saengthawip, assistant Army commanders-in-chief Gen Kamhaeng Chanthawirat and Gen Akkaphon Somrup.

EXCAVATION BEGINS AT B-52 CRASH SITE NEAR HANOI

OW230805 Hanoi VNA in English 0740 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 23 -- In furtherance of an agreement reached by the Vietnamese and U.S. Governments, a group of American specialists on Americans missing in the Vietnam war led by Colonel J.B. Harvey arrived here on Nov 13 for a regular technical session with the Vietnamese side. The two sides worked out plans for joint excavation of a site at Yen Thuong village in Hanoi's outlying district of Gia Lam where a U.S. aircraft was shot down during the war.

On Nov 18, eight American technicians arrived here together with excavation equipment and work began on the following day, Nov 19. This is the first time a joint American-Vietnamese excavation is conducted at a crash site. Work is proceeding favourably. In the process, the American team has expressed gratitude to Vietnamese for its humanitarianism and cooperation in solving the M.I.A. issue.

Plane's Remnants Found

HK230644 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 23 Nov 85

[By Laurent Maillard]

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 23 (AFP) -- U.S. And Vietnamese experts excavating a U.S. military plane crash site have found small parts of the unidentified plane and believe they will uncover major parts soon, reliable sources said today. They expect to find the remains of crew members inside the wreckage of the plane shot down 40 kilometers (25 miles) northeast of Hanoi in 1972 during the Vietnam war, the sources said.

Bone fragments were dug up on the first day of the search on Tuesday, but no other human remains have been found since then, the sources said. The excavation team found parts of the plane yesterday, including portions of the landing gear, fuel tanks and instruments. The parts did not allow confirmation of the identity of the plane, which Vietnamese officials said was a B-52. The searchers expected to find more parts in the next few days, the sources said.

The search has been cloaked in secrecy. Journalists were to be allowed to visit the site today, but were refused permission at the last minute by Vietnamese officials who cited "security reasons." It was believed the turnabout was due to discoveries on the site. The dig has gone as deep as seven meters (22 feet), but has run into difficulties with underground water, U.S. authorities said.

One of the U.S. experts was "slightly injured" Wednesday and was returned to the United States yesterday as a "precautionary measure," a reliable source said. The U.S. has designated 1,797 of its servicemen as missing in action (MIA) in Vietnam during the war. The Vietnamese press briefly mentioned the excavation for the first time today, carrying photographs but no comment.

Kissinger Remarks Scored

BK231109 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has again tried to distort Vietnam's attitude toward the American missing in the Vietnam war. He said in Bangkok on Thursday that Vietnam is using the remains of the American servicemen to test its improved relations with the United States.

This ill-intention statement of the former U.S. secretary of state came at the time when Vietnam and the United States have been conducting a joint excavation for the first time of the crash site at Yen Thuong village in Hanoi outlying district of Gia Lam. The joint excavation, however, has been highly appreciated by the U.S. side.

It is necessary to recall that those American servicemen had died in Vietnam as a result of the aggressive war successively conducted by the U.S. presidents. Vietnam is not to blame for those deaths. It was Kissinger himself who advised the then U.S. President Nixon on using B-52 strategic planes in the bombing run over Hanoi and Haiphong City, and thus [words indistinct] a list of those ill-fated American servicemen.

In the past years, while striving to heal the heavy wounds of war in spite of Washington refusal to contribute to this undertaking and its economic blockage against Vietnam, the Vietnamese have made great efforts in obtaining missing in action remains.

So far, Vietnam has handed over to the U.S. side more than 170 sets of missing-in-action remains and continued putting forth many realistic proposals aimed at solving this issue as early as possible. The joint Vietnamese-U.S. excavation of a crash site is part of Vietnam's good will. We consider this a humanitarian matter without being attached to any political conditions or any papers whatsoever as have been claimed by former U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger.

Even worse, in his statement, Kissinger brazenly demanded that Vietnam change its lines toward the Republic of Kampuchea and the Soviet Union in exchange for better relations with the United States. His demand constitutes an impudent insult to Vietnam's independence and sovereignty. We resolutely reject such an arrogant demand.

Though having used tens of millions of tons of bombs and shells and hundreds of billions of dollars in the Vietnam war, the United States could not force the Vietnamese to knuckle under and give up their independence and sovereignty. And it is none other than Kissinger who had to sign the Paris agreement in 1973 recognizing Vietnam's independence and sovereignty.

AFP CITES QUANDOI NHAN DAN ON PRC INTRUDERS

HK221302 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 22 (AFP) -- Vietnamese forces have killed or captured a number of Chinese commandos infiltrated into Vietnam and broken up Chinese spy rings in the area, the Vietnamese army newspaper reported today. QUAN DOI NHAN DAN said that Vietnamese forces had repelled half a dozen Chinese commando raids in the northern Vietnamese province of Hoang Lien Son bordering China and that "a certain number" of intruders had been killed or captured.

The newspaper said that one of the attacks had been mounted at the beginning of this month, but otherwise did not say when or exactly where the raids had taken place. It said only that armed forces and ethnic minorities in the region had foiled several attempts to infiltrate Chinese agents into Vietnam. "The armed men were exposed by the people," the newspaper reported, adding that "rebel cells were dismantled as soon as they were set up."

The newspaper accused Beijing of using members of ethnic minorities in the area to try to stir up trouble within those minorities, and of working to corrupt cadres, militia-men and the people with goods secretly imported from China. Observers said that this is the first time in several weeks that the Vietnamese press has mentioned fighting on the border with China.

307 DETAINED FISHERMEN RETURNED TO THAILAND

BK221512 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] On 24 October 1985, the SRV Foreign Ministry's Consular Department informed the Thai Embassy in Hanoi of a decision by the Kien Giang Provincial People's Committee and the Vung Tau-Con Dao special zone to release 307 Thai fishermen who had been arrested while intruding into Vietnamese waters to poach marine products.

On 22 and 24 [as heard] November 1985, these 307 fishermen were returned to the Thai side in Ho Chi Minh City after being fined for their illegal actions. These fishermen have expressed gratitude to the Vietnamese Government for the humanitarian treatment it gave to them during their captivity in Vietnam. Representing the Thai Embassy in Hanoi, Mr Chidask Muchitapol, an embassy counsellor, signed a handover report to receive these people.

NHAN DAN WELCOMES SUMMIT AS STEP TOWARD DIALOGUE

BK230522 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Nov 85

[NHAN DAN 23 November editorial: "Dialogue Is Better Than Confrontation and a Difficult and Complex Process"]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. summit has concluded in Geneva. This major and important international event has been followed by the world public with special interest. The talks held from 19 to 21 November between CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Gorbachev and U.S. President Reagan have led to the announcement of a joint statement on the signing of an agreement on exchanges and contacts to be made in the scientific, educational, and cultural fields between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Assessing the summit in a news conference in Geneva, Comrade Gorbachev said: The summit itself and its results are definite contributions to the consolidation of security. They will pave the way to understanding, respect, and dialogue, all of which can help consolidate security. Together with the world people our people welcome the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit and the principled stand of the Soviet Union. We understand that this is only the first step in the very difficult and complex process toward dialogue. The summit has not settled the most important problems related to the tasks of ending the arms race and consolidating peace. There are still major and serious differences between the Soviet Union and the United States over a series of fundamental issues.

This is the first such a summit in the past 6 years or more while differences between the two sides have been unprecedentedly large. The world situation is seriously worsening and has become very tense and dangerous because of the U.S. militarist and warlike forces that advocate a policy of an arms race on earth and in outer space, prepare for nuclear war, and invade and intervene in many regions in the world.

The peace and the very lives of mankind are being threatened. Against such a background, the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva has positive significance. It helps further improve Soviet-U.S. relations and cleanse the world atmosphere in response to the aspirations of nations on this planet. The Soviet-U.S. joint statement asserts: Never should a nuclear war be waged. All kinds of war between the two countries must be prevented. No effort should be made to win military superiority.

The Soviet-U.S. summit reflects a setback for the U.S. administration's militarist and belligerent line while prominently pointing out the just stand and the noble policy of peace of the Soviet Union.

In the past 6 years, the U.S. imperialists have frantically conducted an arms race in order to reverse the 1970's trend for peaceful coexistence, break the existing strategic equilibrium between the Soviet Union and the United States, and win military superiority over the Soviet Union. The Geneva event has shown that the United States cannot achieve that goal. The world people's movement for the protection of peace has been animated and continuously growing stronger in the past few years. Along with the good-will yet resolute attitude of the Soviet Union, the positive and persistent struggle of the Soviet Union and the socialist community as a whole has made decisive contributions to checking the U.S. warlike plans and urging the U.S. President to go to Geneva.

The United States has sought every means to force its allies into the orbit of preparing a nuclear war and conducting a crusade against the Soviet Union and the socialist community as a whole. However, it has not succeeded. Meanwhile some of its allies have surged forward to win economic superiority.

The outcome of the Soviet-U.S. summit has created the possibility of purifying the international situation and easing tension in the world. However, the problem is to turn possibility into reality and to see whether or not the U.S. side's specific deeds match what it has agreed on and promised with the Soviet side.

In Washington, there are still those who want to cling to the outdated policy and interfere with the implementation of agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union. The belligerent and reactionary nature of imperialism has not changed. Mankind has ample reason to remain constantly vigilant toward it, and to struggle to protect peace and life.

Dialogue, like the struggle to protect peace, is a difficult and complex process. The Geneva spirit is a dialogue to settle all differences through contacts and negotiation. This spirit is influencing the world situation. To conduct dialogue for peaceful coexistence is the trend and common aspiration of all nations on earth. In line with this trend, the constructive proposals of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia concerning peace and stability in Southeast Asia have pointed out a fair and reasonable solution through dialogue. These proposals have proved to be correct and supported with every passing day by ever broader segments of the public in the region and the world.

We persistently advocate a policy of good-willed dialogue with China, the United States, and all countries and all sides in Southeast Asia, so as to settle together all problems on the basis of respecting each other's fundamental national rights and for the sake of mutual interests and for peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world. Dialogue is always better than confrontation.

INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

OW221705 Hanoi VNA in English 1649 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 22 -- Baliram Bhagat, minister for external affairs and president of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical cooperation, arrived here this afternoon for a visit at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government.

The distinguished Indian guest was welcomed at the government guest house by Tran Quynh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Vietnam-Indian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation; Nguyen Co Thach, minister for foreign affairs; Dau Ngoc Xuan, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission; Hoang Anh Tuan, Vietnamese ambassador to India; Nguyen Van Ich, deputy chief of the Office of the Council of Ministers and member of the Commission for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries; and many others. Indian Ambassador Pushkar Johari was also present.

Joint Commission Meets

OW231829 Hanoi VNA in English 1551 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 23 -- The Vietnam-India Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation held its 2nd session at the government's guest house here today.

It was attended on the Vietnamese side by Tran Quynh, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the said commission; Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach; Dau Ngo Xuan, vice-chairman of the State Planning Commission; Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Hoang Trong Dai; Hoang Dinh Phu, vice-chairman of the State Commission for Sciences and Technology, and others.

On the Indian side were Baliram Bhagat, minister for external affairs and co-president of the joint commission; A.P. Venkateswaran, secretary of the ministry for external affairs, Indian Ambassador to Vietnam Pushkar Johari and other senior officials.

The participants reviewed the implementation of the agreements reached during the first session held on Dec. 1982 and discussed plans for the future bilateral cooperation. This morning, the Indian guests paid tribute at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office. Later in the afternoon, Tran Quynh and Nguyen Co Thach warmly received Baliram Bhagat and his party and offered them a banquet in the evening.

HANOI REPORTS INSECTS RAVAGING RICEFIELDS

BK221450 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 Nov 85

[Text] According to a report from the Vegetation Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, stem borers, rice gall flies, leaf folders, and [words indistinct] are still ravaging many areas planted with the 10th-month rice crop and 5th-month rice seedlings. Stem borers are continuing to destroy belatedly planted 10th-month rice in the northern provinces and to ravage 3d-month rice in the central provinces and 10th-month rice in the Mekong Delta provinces. In the Mekong Delta provinces alone, more than 25,000 hectares of rice are being devastated by stem borers and another 15,000 hectares by leaf folders. Although the density of insect infestation is not great, localities must concentrate on eradicating insects and blights without letting them spread to wider areas. In addition to insects harmful to rice, there are other insects ravaging subsidiary food and industrial crops such as corn-based army worms and stem borers, soybean-based stem borers, vegetable plant lice, and [words indistinct].

Next week stem borers are forecast to continue developing and ravaging many patches of early sown 5th-month rice seedlings the northern provinces and harming 10th-month rice-fields in the southern provinces. Particularly in the Mekong Delta provinces, the [words indistinct] blight will develop faster than before and will harm rice plants in the stage of growing ears. Therefore, localities must examine and spray insecticide to eradicate stem borers and lice harmful to vegetables and legumes. The northern provinces must eradicate stem borers by plowing up and aerating already harvested ricefields and burying the roots of rice plants remaining after harvest and must remove the eggs of stem borers on 5th-month rice seedlings. The southern provinces, while harvesting the early 10th-month rice, must take preventive and control measures against rice gall flies and against the [words indistinct] blight without letting this blight cause heavy damage.

MARCOS GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AUSTRALIAN TV

BK231142 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0710 GMT 23 Nov 85

["International Report" program moderated by (Collin Johnson) featuring Philippine President Marcos' exclusive interview with Australian television correspondent Richard Carlton on 21 November in Manila--recorded]

[Text] [Carlton] Why have you insisted on this interview being live?

[Marcos] So they cannot cut it off wherever it is and [words indistinct] this interview.

[Carlton] Have you had some bad experiences, actually?

[Marcos] [Laughter] Well, I might mention the "20-20" show and the "60 Minutes" show in the United States.

[Carlton] And what did they do to you?

[Marcos] They cut me down to about 5 seconds, I think. [Laughter]

[Carlton] Did they distort what you had to say?

[Marcos] Yes, and not only distort, presented only one picture -- slums. I can show you a lot of slums in the United States. That's all they are interested in.

[Carlton] Well, sir, there are two issues that I would like to cover with you tonight in our interview -- the issue of corruption and the issue of the stability of your own government. So would you accept as a premise that your government, your administration, has an image abroad as being largely corrupt?

[Marcos] A false image, because we are the only country with an ombudsman, which we [words indistinct] in our Constitution, and the only country with a Sandibayan, a special court that tries corrupt officials. We have heard any number of cases filed. We are the only country where we have filed cases against high-ranking officials, including directors of bureaus as well as assistant secretaries of departments -- a total of perhaps 20,000 cases have been filed, and about half of them have been tried. We have convicted quite a number. So on the question of corruption, I think, we have done more than the others. When I reorganized the entire government, we kicked out about 5,000 officers and employees.

[Carlton] But sir, that does not explain the image that...this is a very pointed question about your wife. Where does she get the money that she puts allegedly into such huge real estate investment in New York?

[Marcos] Well, first of all, this image about having properties in New York has been denied by the story which originated and which is [words indistinct] such a story of suspicions, rumors, and gossips. And yet in the same story, it has carried the statement of an American realtor of New York [word indistinct] what is his name, (Joseph Bernstein) who says: I own all those properties and I don't know Mrs Marcos, but in the sense she may have money send her my way. But somebody, (Mrs Ferendro), allegedly was included and was considered as a dummy. He may have filed a libel case.

[Carlton] Well, sir, are you going to hold elections?

[Marcos] Yes, definately.

[Carlton] When?

[Marcos] We hold them 7 February.

[Carlton] Seven February?

[Marcos] Of next year.

[Carlton] How does that make for the opposition? Are they happy with 7 February?

[Marcos] Well, they agreed to the compromise. Of course, they remember that this proposal of holding snap elections was theirs. They had wanted to hold it as quickly as possible, but all of a sudden changed their stand. Now they want a little delay.

[Carlton] Have they got a chance of winning, do you think?

[Marcos] I seriously doubt it because they keep quarrelling here in Manila. They have no organizations in the provinces -- out of 73 governors we have 72. Out of 1,064 town mayors, supposing they have 200, and those are committed to me. [laughter]

[Carlton] Is it going to be a straight election? Is it going to be a fair election?

[Marcos] Oh yes, oh yes, we know exactly what your critics would do if this election [words indistinct] there are any suspicions whatsoever -- cheating violence, and the like. What we are worried about is the participation of the NPA, the New People's Army. They are already beginning to [word indistinct] and intimidate some of the voters in the distant villages.

[Carlton] I will come around to the NPA shortly, but what have the Americans have been saying to you about the elections? Have they been putting pressure on you?

[Marcos] No, this matter actually is internal in the sense that it was the opposition group that started this thing and this childish exchange of who is more popular, who has the support of the people. I have decided, as you remember, in the David Brinkley show that, well, if they're so insistent upon all these childish claims, why don't we find out? Why don't we try it? They wanted a snap election. We give it to them.

[Carlton] Are the Americans putting pressure on you?

[Marcos] No, no. The Americans are, I would say, better diplomats sometimes. [laughter]

[Carlton] How do they seek to influence you without...

[Marcos interrupting] Whenever there is any matter which is brought up, which I think is internal, too, for the Philippines -- mention, (?you say), the conversation just finished. Now you and I come as friends, so what is it that you want to advise on?

[Carlton] Do I get away with it?

[Marcos] Well, I do. I know. I have been dealing with Americans since way back. Let us see how many years ago. I learned first of all from American teachers many things including fairness and stand up to whoever accuses you falsely, things like that. And I fought beside American soldiers, who are damn good fellows.

[Carlton] So you reckon you got their measure?

[Marcos] Well no. We understand each other.

[Carlton] Ok, let's turn to the NPA.

[Marcos] Yes.

[Carlton] In the piece that has preceeded us on this program -- you haven't been able to see it -- the piece that I shot here in the streets of Manila earlier in the day, I liken the NPA in some respect to the Vietcong. Is that a fair parallel in your view?

[Marcos] Well, if you will remember, the Vietcong originally under Ho Chi Minh were trained by the Americans, but somehow the British administrators transferred the [word indistinct] first to the Japanese, then to the French, and Ho Chi Minh got disillusioned and left and organized the Vietcong. In this particular case it's a communist organization. When the PKP [Philippine Communist Party] surrendered to me in [place indistinct] in 1974, they found out they [words indistinct] traditions between the Maoist group and the Moscow group. The Moscow group chose to go parliamentary.

[Carlton] Mr President, does it matter if the NPA is communist, if they are bringing to some of the villages and areas they control, a more just system than your...

[Marcos, interrupting] [Words indistinct] they start shooting at people in order to cause the others... [changes thought] Look, what did Mao Zedong say? Give me two men in a [words indistinct] control it in no time. This is the pure and simple (?chorus), so much so that now most of our people are reacting to it. By the way, if they are all that strong, why are they surrendering all over the place? They have surrendered, let us say, 832 regulars at arms; 2,064 support groups, most of them with arms; and 60,000 base support population. Now a winning army does not surrender.

[Carlton] Some put forward the estimate being 12,500 men under arms -- regulars -- and maybe 25,000 irregular soldiers. Would you....

[Marcos, interrupting] Well, I would rather think in terms of the regional estimate, which may have grown from 9,000, 10,000, to 12,500, but some people speak of 15,000, 30,000, 25,000 -- but all of these are fairy tales. But true figure may be 12,500.

[Carlton] Mr President, has your Army got anything to apologize for the way they (?behave) in the provinces?

[Marcos] In the provinces, we admit there have been some abuses, but we have corrected all that. We have put up 10 retraining camps and there is training inside those, meaning, while they have command post ... [changes thought] So we think we have cured all of that so much so that now the ratio in most the areas is nine government troops and one rebel. And at the same time, we have 13,500 scout ranger-trained men. And the men among the NPA are hardly trained at all. They cannot stand up to our boys.

[Carlton] But the question was whether the Army has, you have something to apologize on behalf of your Army for the way it behaves in the field?

[Marcos] Sometimes there are abuses as I said. What did the U.S. Army find out? In some instances, they are fighting, there are some civilians get in the crossfire, they got killed. And what is published is the civilians being killed. And this is what happens here too.

[Carlton] Mr. President, do you feel at all under siege?

[Marcos] No, I have been [words indistinct] I went to (Sabul). I've been to (name indistinct) The NPA has not threatened me. But at the same time, you remember when Father (Balveko) up in the north bragged that he is going to give an interview to the foreign correspondents brought into his camp? Well, I operated in the north when I was a guerrilla leader and I immediately recognized the place in [name indistinct].

[Carlton] Sir, there is just very much, finally now, a lot of interest in your health. You look very well tonight. Have you had ...

[Marcos, interrupting] Another fairy tale. As Mark Twain once said a little exaggerated.

[Carlton] Good. Thank you very much indeed.

[Marcos] Thank you.

Maharlika Report

HK230425 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] President Marcos assuaged fears that too much money will be in circulation because of the snap polls in February and the local elections some time next year. He said government expenses for the polls would be taken from programmed amounts that are within the level of money supply. The president spoke to an interviewer from Australian television.

[Begin Marcos recording] We are not going to spend 1 billion. Look, for the salaries of the inspectors, for the 2 registration days, 27 and 28 December, up to the final revision of the voters' lists and the election, we will need about 110 million. Replacement of about 25 percent of the ballot boxes, padlocks, and the ink etcetera etcetera which will they need, and printing of the ballots, allow 200,000. So what you have to (words indistinct). Now this is not going to be new money, it's going to be taken from the programmed amounts which have been permitted within the level of money supply which has maintained our rate of inflation at a level of 10. We reduced it from 62, way back in October 1984, down to 10, and single digit before the end of the year. [end recording]

DAILY EXPRESS Details

HK221531 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 22 Nov 85 p 1, 7

[By Miguel Genovea]

[Text] President Marcos said yesterday that the legitimate political opposition does not have a chance of winning in the coming elections because it is disunited and it does not have an effective political machinery, particularly in the rural areas.

"They are deluded by their own hopes and dreams if they think they could win in the coming elections," the president said. The president made the statement during an interview on the Carlton-Walsh report program of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The program was telecast live in Manila via satellite.

The president's statement was apparently in reply to an assessment by MP Aquilino Pimentel (Opposition, Cagayan de Oro), who predicted a three-cornered fight in the Feb. 7 polls, with the president emerging a poor third. According to Pimentel, he expects Mrs Cory Aquino, widow of former Sen Benigno Aquino Jr., and former Assemblyman Salvador H. Laurel to run against the president.

The president pointed out that the opposition has not won an election in the last 20 years and that the prospects for his rivals are just as bad. Meanwhile, the president told some 2,000 cooperatives officials that all the programs undertaken by the New Society will be at stake in the coming elections. He said that if the opposition will win in the elections, they would change all the programs, including the land reform program, initiated by the administration.

The president also laughed off claims that he will die in six months, saying: "I will be the one who will bury you." In belittling claims by the opposition that he would lose in the elections the president said that it is obvious that the opposition "does not know how to read their own survey." Elaborating on the opinion polls of the opposition, the president cited the survey conducted in April 1984 and again in June and July of this year by the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development (BBC). That survey, funded by the Asia Foundation and donors from the private sector, showed that 44 percent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the performance of the president and only 25 percent were not. The president's rating last year was 47 percent. Given a four-percent error margin (for national figures), the survey noted that this was "only on the borderline of a noticeable change."

On the president's election chances in the 1987 presidential elections (there were still no plans to accelerate the polls when the survey was taken), the survey showed 52 percent thought that "many or very many" will vote for him if he runs again. Only 37 percent felt that "few or very few" will vote for the president.

The BBC is an independent group of business and church leaders who are interested in all aspects of human development. A number of leaders in the BBC are identified with the opposition. The President said the results of the BBC survey so "shocked" the opposition that they conducted another survey, the results of which were even worse for them. The opposition, he said, did not publish the results of that second survey.

"Even in Metro-Manila, that survey showed that the vote would be two-to-one in favor of Marcos," he said. Showing that he was still the master political strategist and statistician, the president rattled off figures. "How can the opposition win?" he asked. "Out of 73 provinces, 71 governors belong to the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. Out of 1,604 city and municipal mayors, only 200 are opposition Marcos."

What is worse for the opposition, he said, is that these 200-odd mayors are committed to Marcos because most of them are his friends and supporters. Some of these friendships, he said, date back to the World War II days, when they fought the Japanese as regulars and subsequently, as guerillas.

The results of the BBC survey became evident over the past three weeks when the President decided to test what he called the "hostile political waters" of opposition bailiwicks in Tarlac and Cebu. In both forays, he was greeted by huge, wildly enthusiastic crowds. He said that the KBL won the 1984 parliamentary election "and even the Americans said the elections were acceptably clean!"

As of now, he said, the KBL is very strong, compared to an opposition "which has no organization to speak of."

Alluding to a statement credited to Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-New York) that the president would not win a "clean and honest" election, he said.

"Perhaps the opposition is preparing for their debacle at the polls. They are spreading all kinds of lies, and these lies are repeated by their foreign propropagandists in official and private circles in the United States."

The president cited the various projects undertaken by the New Society, such as:

- The land reform program which freed the tenant bonded to the land he tilled, divested the landowners of big landed estates, but transferring these estates to entrepreneurs and bankers, paying them 10 percent in cash for the lands, and 90 percent in land certificates as collaterals;
- The Human Resource Development program under which, for the first time, the poor are given loans by banks without collaterals, and provided with professional management skills;
- Amendment of the Labor Code increasing the minimum wage from P5 to P57;
- The educational reform program, in which the administration built thousands of school buildings;
- Increasing irrigable lands from 300,000 hectares to 1,500,000 hectares, enabling farmers to raise two or three crops a year;
- The reopening and operation of over 2,000 factories which had closed before the president assumed the presidency in 1965;
- Broadening the base of society were increased from 2,000 to 274,000; increased voters from eight million in 1969 to 24 million in 1981 by lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 years and removing the literacy requirement in voting.

The president concluded by assuring the people that he will use the power they vested in him as a weapon to free the poor and less fortunate members of society from their misery.

MARCOS REITERATES 7 FEBRUARY ELECTION DATE

HK230044 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Excerpt] President Marcos has assured that the local elections will be definitely held next year. However, he said it could be reset later than its original schedule in May. The president issued this assurance as he reiterated that the forthcoming presidential election will be held on February 7. The president did not elaborate on this, but it was understood that the delay in the holding of the local polls was the resetting of the snap presidential and vice presidential polls from January 17 to February 7 next year.

The postponement of the local elections means an extension of the terms of office of the governors, city and municipal mayors. The chief executive also debunked claims that the expenditures next year would increase the money supply and unduly push the inflation rate. The president added that the expenses of the contending parties are already in the hands of the people, including the money supply released by the Central Bank.

Unido [United Democratic Nationalist Organization] president Salvador Laurel apologized yesterday [22 November] to Member of Parliament Cecelia Munoz-Palma for shouting at her during the National Unification Committee [NUC] meeting on November 15. The occasion was the 73d birthday of the former NUC chairperson. According to sources, the meeting between Palma and Laurel was cordial. It also appeared to have patched up their differences.

Meanwhile the Laurel camp denied yesterday that a statement containing Laurel's apology to Palma was earlier issued. Sources said a press statement was prepared last Wednesday, but it was withdrawn at the last minute.

Member of Parliament Arturo Tolentino said he is still undecided whether to run for president in the coming political exercise. Tolentino was reacting to a report that a crusade has been launched by a group of people who have long believed in the solon. He said he had no prior knowledge of the crusade, but he expressed appreciation for their confidence in him.

The Batasang Pambansa yesterday closed its debate on cabinet Bill No. 7 calling for a special election for president and vice president on February 7 next year. On Monday the opposition is scheduled to voice their objections to the election bill. The period of amendment of the bill starts on Tuesday.

ONGPIN URGES U.S. CONGRESS TO RECONSTITUTE COMELEC

HK220905 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 21 Nov 85 p 12

[Text] Businessman Jaime V. Ongpin has urged U.S. Congressman Stephen J. Solarz and the American Congress to insist on a reconstitution of the Commission on Elections [Comelec] as a reform President Marcos must undertake to have credible elections.

In a telegram to Solarz dated Nov 15, Ongpin proposed purging the Comelec of "Marcos stooges" by allowing the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) and the opposition to nominate four commissioners each. The eight nominees, he added, can select a ninth neutral commissioner as chairman.

Ongpin also proposed that the U.S. Congress finance a statistical sampling of voting results by an internationally accredited outfit to enable a "prompt and reliable" reading of results right after the polls are closed.

The same outfit, he said, can also observe and audit Comelec tabulations. "This would be far more effective use of funds than sending droves of congressional observers who will not be able to stay more than a few days or provide statistically reliable reading of results."

Ongpin recalled that, in the May 1984 elections, Marcos retained control of the Comelec. As a result, he said, out of 62 electoral contests, Comelec, as of June 1985, has decided 60 in favor of the ruling party. Had the Comelec's decisions been split evenly at 31 for each side, the opposition and the KBL would have an equal number of 90 members each in the Batasang Pambansa, Ongpin pointed out.

Earlier, Marcos offered to fill the two Comelec vacancies with nominees of the opposition. "But that will still give him full control because six of the seven incumbents are known KBL partisans," said Ongpin. Ongpin thinks that Marcos will yield on "less critical" issues as long as he has the Comelec under his thumb.

Ongpin thinks that Marcos will yield on "less critical" issues as long as he has the Comelec under his thumb.

Ongpin ended the telegram thanking Solarz for his "unrelenting efforts to help us restore democracy in our country." Meanwhile, Solarz was reported yesterday as saying that Marcos would not be re-elected in an honest election.

FURTHER ON PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, ELECTION BILLS

HK220959 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 21 Nov 85 pp 1, 14

[By C Valmoria Jro]

[Excerpt] The Batasang Pambansa approved on second reading last night a new order of succession for the presidency in case of permanent vacancy or in the event of a temporary disability. Meanwhile, the opposition in the assembly served notice yesterday that it will question in the Supreme Court the constitutionality of Cabinet Bill No. 7. The bill calls for a special presidential election on Feb. 7, 1986 without President Marcos resigning.

The order of presidential succession as approved will be the Vice President, Prime Minister, Speaker, deputy Prime minister or the speaker pro tempore. If the speaker pro tempore fails to assume office for any cause, the Batasang Pambansa will convene immediately without need of a call and elect by a majority vote from among the elected members who will act as president.

In case of permanent disability, death, removal from office, or resignation of the president before the 1987 presidential election, the speaker will act as president until the president and vice president have been elected and qualified. In the event of death, permanent disability, or resignation of the speaker, the prime minister will act as president.

Should the prime minister fail or refuse for any cause whatsoever to assume or continue in office as president, the deputy prime minister will act as president. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of a term, the president-elect dies, the vice president-elect will become president.

If a president shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of a term, or if the president fails to qualify, the vice president will act as president until a president qualifies.

When neither the president-elect or the vice president-elect has been chosen and has qualified or both died at the beginning of their term or in case of disability, death, removal from office, of both president and vice president, the prime minister will act as president or, if he cannot assume, the speaker, deputy prime minister, or the speaker pro tempore, in that order.

In case of temporary disability the president will transmit to the speaker a written declaration that he is temporarily unable to discharge the power and duties of his office.

Until such time that the president has not transmitted to the speaker a notice that he is no longer temporarily incapacitated, the vice president will act as president. If the vice president is not yet chosen, the prime minister will act as president or if he cannot assume the office, the speaker shall act as president.

Among those who introduced amendments to the Succession Bill were opposition MP Neptali Gonzales (Mandalayong-San Juan), Arthur Defensor (Iloilo), and Wilson Gamboa (Negros Occidental), and Deputy Trade Minister Rene Cayciaoo (KBL, Tagig-Pataros-Muntinlupa).

The opposition in the Batasang Pambasa served notice yesterday that it will question the constitutionality of Cabinet Bill No. 7 in the Supreme Court. The bill calls for a special presidential election on Feb. 7 without President Marcos resigning.

The Batasan opens debate today on the amended version of the bill which the committee on revision of laws, codes, and constitutional amendment reported out last Tuesday to the assembly for consideration.

Meanwhile, the Batasan was set to approve on second reading last night a bill prescribing the order of succession in the event of permanent disability or temporary incapacity of the president.

As scheduled by the committee on rules, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Jose A. Rono, the period of debate and interpellations on the special election bill will be closed today, the turno en contra tomorrow, and the period of amendments on Monday.

Leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan accepted the opposition challenge to bring the case to the high court.

Member of Parliament and former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma (Opposition, Quezon City) said the Batasan minority is fully convinced that the bill is unconstitutional. She also said that the reality in the assembly leaves no other option but to elevate the matter to the high tribunal.

Palma observed how the KBL rejected several amendments the opposition tried to introduce during the deliberations of the bill on the committee level. A legal panel of the opposition composed of legal luminaries will file the suit, assistant minority floor leader Neptali Gonzales (Opposition, Mandaluyong, San Juan) said.

The opposition has proposed that the presidential poll, if pushed through by the KBL on the floor because of numerical superiority, should be held simultaneously with the local elections to save on taxpayers' money. Assistant Majority Floorleader Arturo Pacificador (KBL, Antique) said the opposition is inconsistent with its position on the bill.

Following its argument that the snap election on Feb. 7, 1986, is illegal, synchronizing the presidential election with that of local officials will not make it constitutional, he said.

Assistant Minority Floorleader Marcelo Fernan (Opposition, Cebu City) said opposition lawyers who will argue the case in the Supreme Court will include non-Batasan members. It was hinted that among them will be former Sen Jovito Salonga, Liberal Party president.

MP Homobono Adaze (Opposition, Misamis Oriental) has been assigned to coordinate all legal activities.

Assistant Minority Floorleader and former Sen Edmundo Cea (Opposition, Camarines Sur) said the suit will be filed immediately after the president signs the bill into law. The KBL is set to push approval of the bill on second reading early next week.

Rono said he was not worried about the opposition suit because, according to him, the KBL believes in the constitutionality of the snap election.

Political Affairs Minister Leonardo B. Perez, chairman of the committee on revision of laws, supported Rono and also welcomed the suit. Perez said the case is good for the country and will settle once and for all the legal questions being posed by the opposition.

The Perez committee voted 14-6 to recommend approval of the special election bill.

COMELEC PRAISES BATASAN ON ELECTION CODE

HK221007 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0700 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has lauded the Batasang Pambansa for recognizing the importance of the role of citizens' organizations in ensuring free, honest, and orderly elections. Chairman Victorino Savellano cited a provision of the omnibus election code now awaiting final approval by the Batasang Pambansa. The provision authorized the Comelec to enlist nonpartisan groups and organizations of citizens from different sectors to assist The Poll Body in carrying out its Constitutional mandate as guardians of the ballot. Savellano said the electoral reform will open the way to wider and more meaningful participation of the citizenry in the electoral process.

OFFICIAL: VOTE COUNTING CAN BE DONE IN 24 HOURS

HK220923 Dagupan City DZDL radio in Tagalog 0445 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Comelec [Commission on Elections] Chairman Victorino Savellano yesterday said that the counting of votes in the coming snap presidential and vice presidential election can be completed in 24 hours. He said this would be possible once the Comelec has the complete facilities and equipment it is hoping to acquire, and he gave the assurance that there is sufficient time for the electoral body to make the proper preparations. Savellano said that during past years it took from 5 to 10 days for the counting of votes to be completed. He predicted that about 29 million people will vote in the 7 February election. There were 24.9 million registered voters in the 1984 Batasan election, and Savellano said there are expected to be from 3 to 4 million more registered voters for this snap poll.

NEW OPPOSITION GROUP FORMED, BACKS CORY AQUINO

HK221545 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 22 Nov 85 p 28

[Text] A new coalition of opposition parties yesterday declared that it would challenge President Marcos in a snap presidential election in early 1986, and said it wanted Corazon Aquino as its standard bearer.

Radicals and moderates closed ranks at a closed-door meeting and formalized the new political coalition, endorsing the widow of slain opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr. as their preferred candidate, Aquino's younger brother Agapito told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Mrs. Aquino has not yet agreed to stand in the presidential poll, but said recently that she would seriously consider becoming a candidate if President Marcos called a snap poll and if the Corazon Aquino for President Movement gained one million supporters.

The new political coalition came after an opposition split at the weekend, when MP Cecilia Munoz-Palma resigned the chairmanship of an opposition umbrella body, the National Unification Committee (NUC), after a heated altercation with presidential aspirant Salvador Laurel. The NUC was charged with setting up a mechanism to choose a single opposition candidate for a presidential poll. Laurel, a frontrunner to become the opposition candidate, is president of the Philippines' largest opposition party, the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Unido).

Agapito Aquino, the new group's spokesman, said it would participate in the presidential and vice-presidential polls, "subject to their legality." The coalition plans to ask the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional a snap presidential poll with Marcos holding on to his post.

Marcos refuses to step down before the election, and has sent the speaker of parliament a post-dated resignation letter, which will not take effect until the moment the winner of the election assumes office.

The national assembly earlier approved a bill providing for an order of succession if the presidency falls vacant and giving limited powers to the acting president. The succession bill was approved a day after a legislative committee set Feb. 7 as the date for a snap presidential and vice-presidential poll.

The new opposition coalition has not chosen a name, but opposition sources said a likely choice was Laban, meaning fight -- the name of Benigno Aquino's party when he ran and lost in a general election in 1978 while in military detention.

Meanwhile, the Corazon Aquino for President Movement (CAPM) yesterday vowed to have a million signatures urging her to run for president by early next week. The CAPM president, former publisher Joaquin Rocas, said they already had more than 708,000 signatures.

Meanwhile, Laurel yesterday urged all Unido leaders, and followers to desist from issuing any statements that would tend to discredit or harm any member of the party or group within the opposition.

In a press statement, Laurel said the incidents during the last few days require that the Unido refocus its attention toward the common goal of the opposition, "which is, to dismantle the Marcos regime and work for the restoration of freedom, justice and democracy in our land." He said amid a fractious debate, the opposition might lose sight of the common enemy, "the present regime, which has brought untold sufferings to the people." Laurel implored the members of the opposition to close ranks against Marcos, even if honest differences of opinion exist within their ranks.

LAUREL URGES PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION

HK220915 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 21 Nov 85 p 12

[Text] The constitutionality of the snap presidential election on Feb 7 continued to figure prominently yesterday with a ruling party MP threatening to go to the Supreme Court and an oppositionist urging participation even if the polls were unconstitutional.

Opposition presidential aspirant Salvador "Doy" Laurel sees violent options left for Filipinos. He thus urged participation in the snap election even if its constitutionality is not resolved.

"We can't boycott simply because of this," he told the Philippine Columbian Association yesterday in a luncheon forum. Laurel, in his speech which he called the "opening salvo" of the opposition, said the country is faced with a communist takeover, a military coup or a civil war the longer President Marcos stays in power. A free and fair election, he stressed, is the only peaceful option.

While he deplored the short campaign period of 58 days, the UNIDO (United Nationalist Democratic Organization) president said he will spend 20 percent of his time, resources and personnel "letting people know Marcos has an opponent." The 80 percent he added, will be devoted to guarding the ballots.

By his calculation, if the 53.4 percent votes garnered by the 60 opposition members of parliament in May 1984 will be cast this year for a single opposition candidate, "there is no doubt" that the opposition can win.

Laurel, among the oppositionists, is most determined to sit in Malacanang. He told his audience: "The worst man is one who turns his back on his country in an hour of need. Let us not be the worst of men."

If the opposition will choose its presidential bet through the 28-member NUC (National Unification Committee) executive committee, Laurel appears to have the edge. He is assured of at least 13 votes from the major political parties, not counting the votes he still can swing from some of the eight regional parties.

Confident he will be the opposition candidate, Laurel made campaign promises. He said, in reply to a question on what sanctions he will institute to avoid cronism and nepotism: "No member of my family will be appointed to government during my term."

Laurel related that his wife, Celia, will not accept any government position should she become first lady. "She will not even stay in Malacanang." He advocated a single term for every president after Marcos, saying there should only be "one chance to strike the ball."

Asked if he will appoint Supreme Court Justice Claudio Teehankee as chief justice of the highest court of the land should he become president, he answered: "I already made that commitment." When in power, he also said he will grant general amnesty to all political offenders. He will not practice double standard in dealing with the local communists, he pointed out. "We wine and dine foreign communists from Beijing and Moscow...but we run after the local communists."

Asked to explain what led to MP Cecilia Munoz Palma's resignation as NUC chairperson, he said it was an "honest difference of opinion" but cited the reports of his shouting and pointing a finger at Palma as "exaggerated."

"I don't know if I pointed a finger or shouted... When I argue, my hands move. I was groggy, will with a jet lag....There was no microphone in the room and Soc Rodrigo asked me to speak louder. I am a very emphatic speaker when I drive home a point," he explained.

A young girl, in her teens, from the audience asked, "Now that you made a mistake, can we expect an apology?"

Answered Laurel: "If I did what you say that I did -- and you were not there -- I'm sorry. The first chance that I have, I'll apologize personally (to Mrs Palma)."

On his probable running mate, Laurel said he will leave it to the NUC and the council of leaders to choose the vice-presidential bet and come up with the "strongest combination." But MP Arturo M. Tolentino (KBL Manila) said yesterday that he would petition the Supreme Court to halt the snap election not only on constitutional grounds but also because it would result in a sharp rise in the prices of goods and services.

In his speech before the 7th annual convention of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines at Manila Midtown Hotel, Tolentino said the presidential polls set Feb. 7 and the local elections in May will result in P2 billion being released into the economy. The snap polls would coincide with the maturity of some P3 billion worth of treasury bills beginning January-February 1986, he said.

The P5 billion "flowing into the money stream," Tolentino said, would mean "a great deal" of inflation. He added that the new sales tax scheme is another impetus for inflation that would burden mainly the middle and low income groups of the country. He said that he would fight his own party, the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, at the Batasang Pambansa to prevent the passage into law of Cabinet Bill No. 7 which calls for the snap elections. However, the bill is expected to be approved on final reading on Friday.

Although the Cabinet bill appropriates only P200 million for the snap elections, Tolentino said the actual electoral exercise would cost P1 billion "in order to help government candidates."

If the bill is passed by the Batasang Pambansa, Tolentino said, he would petition the Supreme Court to nullify its approval, citing the resulting inflation and the constitutional grounds.

Tolentino also made an appeal to the country's voters (estimated at 27 million by the Commission on Elections) to be more vigilant to ensure that the people's real choice for president will be reflected in the election results.

The duty of voters does not end after the casting of ballots, but extends to the counting phase where many irregularities occur, Tolentino said. "What is more important than who gets elected is the assurance that the election is fair and honest," he added.

VALANCIA VIEWS OPPOSITION'S PROBLEMS

HK240215 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0100 GMT 24 Nov 85

["Commentary" by Teodoro Valencia]

[Text] For the last few days, people in the coffeeshops, in their private homes, clubs, schools, and in the hall of the Batasang Pambansa, have been talking of nothing but what has happened to the opposition.

Well, for a while people were convinced that the opposition was ready for unity, that the National Unification Committee [NUC] was all set to choose the lone candidate for president for a snap election or a regular election. Why, because when Doy Laurel returned from the United States, he was met at the airport by no less than Cory Aquino, and they had a very jovial meeting, very familiar, and very friendly. There were the other leaders of the opposition present as witnesses. Laurel [words indistinct] said he would abide by whatever the decision of the National Unification Committee would be.

But obviously he did not mean that, because 24 hours later, when the NUC met, there were fireworks, and to this day they are still debating, did ex-Senator Laurel shout at former Justice Cecelia Munoz-Palma, or not? He said, no, he did not, he only spoke in a loud voice. Mrs Palma said he shouted at her. As a result, she resigned. So that was a statement more likely to make many people believe that Laurel shouted at her, that was why she tendered her resignation.

But things are not as simple as they look; the truth of the matter is, Laurel had something to shout about, he had reason to be unhappy, because he installed Mrs Cecelia Munoz-Palma there to protect his interests, to bring about unity in the opposition parties, hopefully for his nomination. The opposition happened, and he was shocked to find out how solid was this gathering sentiment in favor of Cory Aquino's candidacy, and that Mrs. Palma was definitely on the side of Cory.

Even before Laurel arrived, there were already forebodings of things to come, because some henchmen of Unido [United Nationalist Democratic Organization] had already been issuing statements which were not too palatable to Mrs Palma, to Cory Aquino, and the people who believed in Cory. In fact, many of the would-be candidates for president or vice president in the opposition camp were already beginning to be unhappy because they thought for a while that it was a certainty that the ticket of the opposition would be a Laurel-Aquino ticket or an Aquino-Laurel ticket, but things were to happen and develop to arrive at one conclusion: There can never be a Cory-Laurel ticket, it would have to be Cory ticket and a Doy ticket. That is the situation as it is today, and if you don't believe that, then you have not followed the happenings in the last week or so.

But politics is like that, unpredictable. Even the talk about snap elections, people say, ah, we think there will be snap elections. The Batasang Pambansa passed on second reading cabinet Bill No 7, and people are already talking about a campaign that starts from this day to that day, about the balloting that would happen on February 7, and about the campaign strategies of the KBL and the opposition.

But I still believe that there will be no snap election, for reasons which I will give later. You know, in politics, if it looks like a duck, it waddles like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it must be a horse. In other words, when things look so obvious one way, it could mean that it's going the other way. And so we are holding our breath, we are hoping that these things will be clarified soon enough. Because there are many people who believe that a snap election is inevitable, and quite as many people who say it's not only impossible, it is foolhardy, unwise, expensive, useless.

I certainly believe that the president will have to call off the snap election forthwith. Why? Because without a snap election, he has already achieved everything that he wanted to do. For one thing, he has already belied the rumor in the United States that he had 6 months to live and is no longer running things in the Philippines. As it turns out, all he had to do was snap his finger, call for a snap election, and the country goes into hysterics, and politics became the order of the day.

Even before the mechanics of the special election could be finalized, the members of the political opposition, specially those with presidential and vice presidential ambitions, maneuvered, cobbled, squabbled, and eventually split into rival factions. The thin veil of unity in the opposition ranks finally fell when Member of Parliament Cecelia Munoz-Palma, a respected 72 year-old former Supreme Court justice, resigned as chairman of the National Unification Committee. Thereafter, the dam broke loose, and today, what do we have? The Laurel group, Unido, determined to stop the Cory Aquino movement, and vice versa, the Cory Aquino people don't want any part of Salvador Laurel.

This is all very ironic. Because the National Unification Committee was a creation of the Unido. The only reason the NUC was born was because Salvador Laurel did not want it said that he formed the Unido and would like everybody to join with the Unido for his domination. He wanted to be nominated in a way that it would make everybody in the opposition feel good that he is the consensus, that by mutual consent all the opposition people think that he is the winner.

That is the nature of Philippine politics, ladies and gentlemen. Anytime you are set up, people try to pull you down. Do you recall that the Cory for President Movement started not more than 40 days ago, before this everybody took it for granted that the people contending for nomination included Laurel, Salonga, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Ramon Mitra, Homobono Adaza, and what have you, that Cory was meant to be the catalyzer, the rallying point. Now it appears she's a candidate, a reality as big as a house.

LAUREL, CORY AQUINO HOLD CLOSED-DOOR MEETING

HK230423 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 23 Nov 85

[Text] Former Senator Salvador Laurel held a closed-door meeting today with Mrs Cory Aquino. It is the latest move to unite the various presidential contenders of the opposition behind a single candidate. Today's Laurel-Cory Aquino meeting was arranged by Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, the new chairman of the National Unification Committee. The meeting comes amidst the stand of 16 opposition members of parliament questioning the constitutionality of the upcoming snap presidential poll.

VALENCIA ON U.S. INTERVENTION POSSIBILITY

HK250501 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0130 GMT 25 Nov 85

["Analysis of the News" by Teodoro Valencia]

[Text] We are all aware of the, shall we say, determined effort on the part of the American press, the American Government, State Department, and some leading lights of the Congress of the United States to downplay the Philippines and present a very negative picture of this country in order to justify American intervention because the Americans believe that the only way they can protect their military bases in the Philippines is to picture to the world that the Filipinos are a hopeless people, their government is crumbling, the communists are winning here, so that if they were to intervene directly, even militarily, then they would be justified.

Let's not forget this: Whatever they say, however friendly the Americans and the Filipinos are, the United States is a foreign power with a military capability in the Philippines. What, I wonder, will happen if the Americans have to decide that they are going to intervene in the Philippine insurgency problem directly? Now the Americans would have a base -- Clark and, for that matter, Subic, from where they can operate in a military sense.

What I wonder, will the other superpowers think of such a possibility; We in the Philippines are well aware of the fact that the American military bases are here so fortunately to protect us. But now they are regarded [words indistinct] frail on the part of the American State Department, the Pentagon, the Congress, and the press. Should we now encourage American intervention and allow a situation where outside forces, military forces will be stationed right on our own soil, determined to crush our [word indistinct], credibility and respectability?

I think the sooner we ask the Americans to leave and to leave us in peace, the better it will be for us because a picture of neutrality would be much better than the present situation where we are being treated as a colony without benefit of a war that we lost, without any justification for the military occupation of this country, and the existence of a shadow civilian government under the aegis of the United States telling our government what to do and telling our people what is best for us.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON U.S. BASES ISSUE URGED

HK221005 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0700 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Four Filipino experts in foreign relations have batted for a renewed information drive on the RP-U.S. bases issue. They said an information campaign is necessary before a plebescite or referendum on the retention or abrogation of the bases is made. This stand was expressed by former Foreign Secretary Felixberto Serrano, former Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Ingles, former Chairman of the National Economic Council Hilarion Henares and lawyer Teopisto Guingona. In a dialogue held at the Army and Navy Club, the four said action on the bases must be given [as heard] after the Philippines has made its position clear, categorical, and emphatic.

MARCOS TO FORMULATE POLICY ON COPRA EXPORTS

HK230217 Manila East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] President Marcos yesterday [22 November] said he will formulate a national policy that would prescribe the quantity of copra that could be exported to ensure the well being of all sectors involved in the coconut industry. The president told a delegation of local officials from Palawan who called on him in Malacanang that he was turning down their request for authority to export copra, because of the present policy banning the exportation of copra. He said the export ban was necessary in view of the fact that one-half of the total number of coconut oil mills in that country have been monthballed, while those that are now operating are running at half their capacity. However, the president said copra traders usually advance money to the farmers so that they can get the [word indistinct] low prices to the [word indistinct] of the farmers.

NPA QUEZON CAMP CAPTURED; BONDOC REBELS KILLED

HK221514 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 22 Nov 85 pp 1, 10

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Mulanay, Quezon -- A New People's Army (NPA) camp, complete with war rooms and provisions inside a cave, has been captured by government forces from the Quezon PC [Philippine Constabulary] head, quarters in Lucena City and the 234th and 235th PC companies after two weeks of operations here and in the Bondoc Peninsula. Col. Antonio T. Sierra, Quezon PC commander, reported to Brig Gen. Andres B. Ramos, Regional Unified Command and Recom 4 chief, that cave is situated in barangay Vulla Aurin, Mulanay, and can accommodate 50 persons. The camp cannot easily be detected because the area is covered by vegetation and big trees. There are guard houses near the cave to detect intruders.

The PC troopers found several sacks of rice, canned goods, and office supplies reportedly taken during an NPA raid on the Mulanay municipal building two weeks ago. The rebels, the report said, transferred to another camp because of massive military operations against the NPA after the Mulanay raid. Capt Jose Jaymalin, 235th PC commander, reported the arrest of a couple identified as Manuel Domindiang and his wife Vilma after PC operatives found 62 M-16 Armalite bullets in their travelling bag.

Meanwhile, Brig Gen Andres Ramos reported that 12 suspected NPA's were killed and two others were wounded while 11 were captured during the two-week operations in the Bondoc Peninsula. Ramos said that two suspected killers of Mayor Nerio O. Ramos of Lopez, Quezon, last August were slain by Army soldiers of the 49th IB headed by Lt Ricardo Pascual in Barangay Binahian, Lopez, Quezon, last Tuesday. They were identified as "Ka Rizza" and Inding Fajardo.

TRIAL OF ACCUSED KILLERS OF ITALIAN PRIEST OPENS

HK200747 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 20 Nov 85

[Text] A [word indistinct] marathon trial opens today in Kidapawan, Cotabato. On trial are the eight accused in the killing of Catholic Priest Tullio Favali in April this year. The accused, former members of the Civilian Home Defense Forces, are being tried tomorrow. They include the Manero brothers led by Edilberto Manero, the alleged actual killer of Father Favali. Special State Prosecutor Tirso Velasco is handling the prosecution [words indistinct] before Judge Benjamin Espanol. Velasco is the same fiscal who prosecuted Norberto Manero for a murder charge.

3 FORMER PHILIPPINE MNLF REBELS ARRESTED

HK180733 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0700 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Constabulary authorities confiscated 18 high-powered firearms from 3 former rebels. The three were identified as (Datu Mael Lauban), (Ricardo Disulimba) and a certain Commander Gerry, all former members of the MNLF. The former rebels were linked [words indistinct] the killing of three PC [Philippine Constabulary] soldiers and the kidnapping of a Chinese businessman in Maguindanao.

AIDE TO RENEGADE PRIEST BALWEG SURRENDERS

HK221031 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] An aide to rebel Priest Conrado Balweg has surrendered to military authorities. The NPA official is identified as (Leonard Musling), alias Ka (Mandu) from Kalinga-Apayao. (Musling) said he has surrender because he does not believe that the NPA can win against the government. He said that the stalemate predicted in 1980 has not taken place because people in the provinces are tired of paying taxes to the NPA. (Musling) said that Balweg and his followers are still in hiding in upper Kalinga in the mountain province.

IMELDA URGES END TO HUNGER STRIKE AT U.S. EMBASSY

HK250601 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Text] The first lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos yesterday [24 November] urged hunger strikers in front of the United States Embassy to end their strike and pursue their fight for the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, and humanity through more positive means. The first lady made a surprise visit to the site where she met with Waldy Carbonnel, radio announcer who initiated the strike at Plaza Ferguson along Roxas Boulevard. Asking for an end to their hunger strike, Mrs Marcos told Carbonnel that we are all working for the same principles and that she is also doing her share for the freedom of the country but she said: Let us do it in a positive way without depreciating lives and health.

BUSINESS DAY INTERVIEWS NDF'S ANTONIO ZUMEL

Part I

HK211445 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Nov 85 p 5

[Interview by Marites Danguilan-Vitug: "The View From the NDF -- Interview with Antonio Zumel"]

[Text] Antonio Zumel, 53, ranking officer of the underground National Democratic Front [NDF], walks through the door, takes off his dark glasses, extends his hand for a warm handshake. He is trim, his hair with strands of silver, his eyes smiling.

Immediately, he asks about his own friends in the media which had been his life for 23 years, before he went underground with the declaration of martial law in Sept. 1972. In contrast to the visibility he had when he was news editor of the then MANILA DAILY BULLETIN, president of the National Press Club [NPC], habitue of the NPC bar, member of the NPC male chorale, the 13 years that followed has been steeped in secrecy. That is, until he surfaced as a subject of an interview, and no longer an interviewer, in a March 1985 issue of NEWSWEEK. The report said he was widely believed to be the National Democratic Front Chairman.

His friends in the media say Antonio Zumel was well-liked, unobtrusive, an excellent journalist who had integrity. It was a surprise to many, then, that a quiet guy, already well advanced in his journalistic career, would give up his 23 years of professional experience for the risks and uncertainties of the underground.

He has made a choice and it seems to have settled well with him. He apologizes for his difficulty in speaking English, a language he has hardly practised the past 13 years. "But I have polished my Pilipino. I feel more at home with our language now," he says.

The Zumels are from Laoag, Ilocos Norte. One brother has taken a path much different from his. Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Carlos Zumel is the superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. "Our politics have always been different," Zumel points out.

The tape recorder made Tony Zumel somewhat self-conscious although he maintained a relaxed manner throughout the interview. Except for an impassioned explanation as to why he and his group do not consider President Marcos their ally, as some think, he was generally calm and dispassionate.

In a two-hour interview with BUSINESS DAY, he talks about snap elections, imperialism, the military, the underground movement, and the "red scare." He says in jest, "Do you think we have red eyes, that smoke comes out of our ears, and we spew out fire?"

Excerpts of the interview, much of it translated from Pilipino, follows:

BD [BUSINESS DAY]: Let's start with the hottest subject: elections. What is the NDF stand on the proposed snap elections?

Zumel: There is no certainty that snap elections will take place. You don't know whether Marcos is coming or going. And while it is called a snap election, it is being said that it is not a snap decision either. I think it is deliberately being aimed by Marcos at his American patrons presumably to show them that he is not afraid to submit himself to the people's judgment, at the traditional opposition to befuddle them and to discombobulate their plans; and at the people at large, basically to deceive. We are keeping track of developments; we are analyzing the moves of the various groups and forces.

BD: What, more or less, is the thinking? Are you for participation?

Zumel: Based on data available, there is not enough basis yet for making a final decision. We probably will want additional data. Even the traditional politicians are sort of divided, too, on the elections. There are some comrades who are saying, that based on the rules and what Marcos has shown, a boycott is the proper response. But we are withholding the final decision until things are clear. Even Imee (Manotoc) does not believe snap polls will take place. Even the President's own daughter doesn't seem to believe...

BD: Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said, "It's too late in the day to make a strategic with-drawal."

Zumel: Meaning...

BD: It is difficult for Marcos to back out.

Zumel: I think Johnny Enrile is part of the scheme to confuse the people. Personally -- I don't know about other comrades -- I don't think there's going to be a snap election. There are many questions. Some may go to the Supreme Court. Time will run out, we may reach local elections, and 1987. Meantime, the people's attention is focused on elections. The more weighty problems of the dictatorship are relegated...it's a charade. Knowing Marcos as we all do, we don't think he has gone into this half-heartedly. He really must have planned this. Even his change of position on the vice-presidency. He confuses the enemy.

BD: Does this put the Left then in a difficult position?

Zumel: Not really. Work goes on in the revolutionary movement. We're watching developments so that we know how to advance the people's interests. Whether he calls an election or not, our work goes on.

BD: Do you believe the snap election is the U.S.'s idea or just Marcos's own?

Zumel: The U.S. push for reform is clear and Marcos has not substantially complied with any. In fact, there has been almost no compliance. The U.S. has also been pushing Marcos to restore credibility. As to the frequent change of position, it is vintage Marcos.

BD: But I do not see a strong bargaining leverage of the U.S. unless they threaten him.

Zumel: The U.S. has a strong bargaining leverage if it so desires.

BD: But at the moment, aid keeps pouring in. The U.S. said it will not pull out the bases; it will stand by the government. So what could have made Marcos give in?

Zumel: Our reading is, the U.S. will continue to support Marcos up to the end of his full term. He was the most reliable local reactionary politician defending U.S. interests here... If Marcos is a burden to the U.S., the option is open to support others. If before, they were closed to the idea of talking to traditional oppositionists, like Ninoy (Aquino), now, their move to communicate with the opposition is discernible. The advantage is, Marcos is tested. On the debit side, Marcos is proving to be too heavy a burden (to the U.S.). It is difficult to renew confidence in him, not only among the Filipinos but also among foreigners. It is difficult to believe that this incorrigible fascist dictator will change. Whether the election is in 1987 or earlier, the options are open for the imperialists.

BD: You said earlier the mass movement will continue. But do you see any specific role the NDF will play in an election?

Zumel: As NDF, we don't participate in elections. In past elections wherein these clearly served to perpetuate Marcos in power, we called for a boycott. If it serves the interests of the people to participate in elections, for tactical gains, okay. We don't run for public office, do we?

BD: Do you see elections as having an educational value for the NDF, as a means for the NDF to propagate your program?

Zumel: During elections, it is but proper that the people have an opportunity for mass propagation of our program. In urban areas, where the enemy is stronger, we are able to propagate our program in the underground. There are limitations. Modest efforts of the NDF to disseminate its program are sometimes hampered by the enemy. We have limited resources but despite these, we seek to disseminate our program.

BD: But do you also see the elections as a means to isolate the movement?

Zumel: That's what the U.S. imperialists want to happen and to some extent Marcos himself, although at this point Marcos also wants to deceive. But he's scared to give in too much (to the U.S.) because his power is being eroded and this may lead to his fall.

BD: Can you give views on the oppositionist contenders for the presidency? Cory Aquino, Doy Laurel and Jovy Salonga?

Zumel: We acknowledge their contributions to the anti-dictatorship movement but I will not pass judgment on their individual merits or demerits. Our criteria are consistency, dedication in working for the national interest, in pursuing democratic issues, and how militant they are in defending the people's interests.

BD: What is your impression of the latest disruption of unity efforts, the resignation of MP Cecilia Munoz-Palma as NUC chairperson? A lot of people think unity for the legal opposition is elusive.

Zumel: There are issues that divide them. (Goes off the record.) Marcos must be very happy. He must also be fanning the flames of such disagreements. Marcos is never passive.

BD: But, in the light of all these events, is it still necessary for the legal opposition to unite?

Zumel: In the revolutionary movement, to begin with, you cannot expect fundamental changes in society only by elections. Given the concrete conditions in our country's armed struggle is necessary, so with a national united front, and various forms of mass struggle. Electoral struggle is a form of mass struggle but it is only a small part. In the history of our country, it can be shown that we cannot expect basic changes as a result of elections.

BD: Will elections retard the growth of the NDF?

Zumel: I don't think so, it does not pose a setback or slow down the revolutionary movement. Our assessment is, now and for the next several years, conditions are very excellent for the rapid advance of the revolution. I don't know what the basis of that conclusion is -- that elections retard the growth of the movement.

Part II

HK220158 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 21 Nov p 5, 6

[Interview by Marites Danguilan-Vitug: "The View From the NDF -- Interview with Antonio Zumel"]

[Text] BD: The thinking is, if a new leader wins in an election, this leader may inspire confidence and people will start believing in government which means less people may join the movement.

Zumel: If a candidate who makes it to Malacanang loves the country, it is possible that he or she may achieve certain reforms but looking at the extent of the crisis in our society, with U.S. imperialism which we say is decisive in Philippine politics, we desire that whichever opposition candidate sits in Malacanang will effect genuine democratic reforms but we see the built-in restraints in the system for implementing reforms.

BD: So you are not for the retention of Marcos. Twice, Doy Laurel has said before an American audience that the Left favors Marcos' continued stay in Malacanang because this works to your advantage.

Zumel: That is a very unkind statement from Doy Laurel. Yes, I read it, I think he himself does not believe what he's saying. Firstly, since Marcos imposed martial law, the whole country suffered. We know that and we in the movement, a movement that consistently and militantly fights for the people, have made sacrifices, many comrades have died, many have been tortured, detained, mangled. People are hungry.

If we can help it, Marcos would not be in Malacanang a minute longer than necessary. We have been saying that Marcos's use of open, reactionary terror, that by negative example, he's the best teacher of the Filipino people. He shows that the genuine road to change is by carrying arms and fighting. We say this but it is completely different to say that we wish or will him to say in office a minute longer.

BD: Why do you think Laurel said it then? Was it for American consumption, to show them that he will take up the fight against the left if he assumes power?

Zumel: I really don't know what his motive or reason was. I think he has said it as a slogan twice in the past. I will not use a stronger language. But when I hear this, nakakapanting ng tenga [it is infuriating]. The movement has made so much sacrifice, we have seen the hardships the country has been and is going through, then somebody says that we want this system to persist. That's a terrible thing to say.

BD: Would you say that the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] and NDF have battle-weary members already?

Zumel: To the extent that they are relaxing?

BD: To the extent that they are willing to have a truce with a new government. If the opposition wins in the election, will the NDF cooperate with the new leadership? Do you foresee a truce?

Zumel: There is no offer yet of a truce ... We in the movement stand for peace and democracy. Who wants to carry arms and take all the attendant risks? But ever since martial law was imposed, and Marcos declared civil war on the people, this is the right response of the people: to carry arms and fight. But never did we desire violence. The enemy uses terror. Now, about the truce, it depends on the conditions. Are you thinking of a ceasefire?

BD: Yes, a temporary stop in fighting, and giving the new leadership a chance to prove itself or even actively cooperating with them in certain areas such as land reform.

Zumel: We're open to a ceasefire even if there is no offer yet. The premise is the military will stop its use of violence. If they stop their use of violence, we can talk about a ceasefire... and the government should bring back true democracy.

BD: How about active cooperation, say, in a genuine land reform program?

Zumel: Embodied in our 12-point program are our goals. If a new leader pursues what our program desires, we will be happy. All sincere efforts of different political forces to stand by national independence and sovereignty and pursue genuine reforms especially for the basic masses who comprise the overwhelming majority of the nation, peasants and workers, the lower petty bourgeoisie. If they implement genuine reforms, we'll be happy. The issue of cooperation, based on the premises we discussed...what shall I say? We haven't tested our leaders yet. We see them in the antidictatorship struggle but we haven't seen them yet sit in Malacanang and see how they behave as president. We have had experiences in the past. Marcos, for example. The first time he run in 1965, one of the issues he raised against Macapagal was the question of sending troops to Vietnam. Macapagal was for sending troops, Marcos was against it. This was one of the outstanding issues against Macapagal just before the elections. But what happened when Marcos sat in Malacanang? What was among the first things he did? He sent Philcag [1st Philippine Civic Action Group, Vietnam] to Vietnam. The view is different from here, Marcos was supposed to have said. People presenting themselves to the Filipino people as leaders. The test is when they sit in the Palace, implementing reforms. We're not prophets. We can only base our judgment on what they have been saying all these years, what they have been doing. But when there (in Malacanang,) we cannot predict what they will do.

BD: There seems to be an upsurge in the "red scare" feeling. Should people be scared of the Left, particularly the NDF?

Zumel: I don't know why people should be scared of the Left or the NDF in particular. ~~Our program completely serves our people, it is drawn up based on an analysis of the~~ situation of our society, of problems and solutions. Objectively, the program serves the interests of the people. In fact, people embrace the NDF and its program. Best proof is the rapid pace of expansion of the NDF itself and its forces. People perceive that the NDF program embodies responses to their needs.

BD: Bonifacio Gillego wrote in an article for MR. & MS. that the Left has some tendencies that need to be moderated. He said the Left can be dogmatic, arrogant, rigid and doctrinaire. Please comment.

Zumel: We welcome his ideas on setting up a broad anti-dictatorship alliance. They are very sound. We are human beings just like everybody. We do commit mistakes. What is important is we look at ourselves, examine where we made mistakes. It's a self-critical view on what these mistakes we need to rectify are. NDF is a large organization. It is possible that a national democratic activist, in his or her enthusiasm, may have rubbed people the wrong way. But dedicated activists do not deliberately want to hurt people. We welcome the criticism -- that we are dogmatic, arrogant. We're studying these. And if with basis, we will rectify. But we ourselves are against dogmatism, inflexibility, rigidity. We perceive that accusations like these are carried by those whipping up the anti-communist hysteria. The U.S.-Marcos regime uses this as a weapon against the Left. By no means do we see that these negative tendencies referred to apply in general to the movement. There may be isolated cases which we correct. This is being used by proimperialists and other reactionaries to hit the Left. This does not serve the interests of the anti-dictatorship struggle but serves to perpetuate the dictatorship.

BD: It appears that the NDF is monolithic. Can you give an insight on your decision-making process?

Zumel: To begin with, the NDF as a revolutionary alliance is composed of several organizations. All proposals, plans, programs, policies are democratically discussed. Consensus is the key. If we need to vote, then we vote. But within the front, there is independence and initiative of each participating organization; they undertake projects of their own; each has organizational integrity. No one imposes his will on other participating organizations.

BD: The impression, I think, stems from the fact that after you decide, you stand firmly on that.

Zumel: Leaders don't make the decisions where they are isolated in an ivory tower. It would be removed from reality for a leader to think by himself in a room. The leaders study the issue. We consult with the lowest levels up from the highest council. After gathering all the data, we distill the ideas and formulate right programs, tactics, policies. Your organization will be dead if democracy is not alive. We listen to the views of each one in each organizational level. After a decision is arrived at, then implementation is coordinated to achieve the goals. We help each other. It is not possible that only one acts and the rest laze around. We pursue the decision with one heart and mind.

BD: Another basis of the red scare is the fear that the Left will impose a system that will not accommodate religion and one that will not be flexible.

Zumel: That is guaranteed in the NDF program -- freedom of religion. There are devout Catholics, nominal Catholics. We respect their right to religion. There is also the right to believe, to worship.

BD: There is also the fear of businessmen that all industries will be state-owned.

Zumel: Hindi Naman [No, not really]. The economy we are after is a self-reliant economy, balanced development of agriculture and industry. Some sectors will be state-owned like strategic industries. Others will be under private enterprise. We will have cooperatives. National Capitalists -- Filipino national bourgeoisie -- are also having a hard time because foreign investments and their local agents dominate the economy. Their situation is unstable. We'd like to develop, expand this sector; the skills and talents of the national bourgeoisie will be needed in rebuilding our society especially when Marcos leaves the economy in shambles.

BD: What are the strategic industries to be controlled by the public sector?

Zumel: Oil, power.

BD: What about the foreign investors?

Zumel: We welcome foreign investments but we will not allow them to dominate the economy. We will need their inputs for technology, capital. This should be based on mutual benefit.

BD: If you win, how will you deal with the U.S.?

Zumel: If they respect our country's independence and sovereignty, stop their meddling, stop their support to counter revolutionary forces, and if based on mutual benefit, without interference in each other's internal affairs, we are ready to relate with them on a diplomatic level.

If we speak of the American people, they are very sympathetic and are one with us in our legitimate aspirations. It is imperialism itself as represented by the people who sit at the White House, people at Capitol Hill, big business...it has never been the American people. Their support in stopping the U.S. Government from helping this regime is valuable.

BD: What will you do with the bases?

Zumel: If we let the American forces go, we will not allow any other foreign power to occupy them. We'll use them for the good of the people. For example, Clark Air Base. There is a large area around it which can be tapped for agriculture and industry. It is possible that we maintain them as bases but to be used by forces of the people. The U.S. is scared that if they leave, the Russians will take over. We will ask the cooperation of Southeast Asian countries to declare this area a nuclear-free zone, a zone of peace and neutrality.

BD: So is the movement at a stage where it will accept foreign support, particularly from the Soviets?

Zumel: From the start, we had an open call to all progressive, revolutionary parties, organizations, movements abroad and citizens, too, for their help. Now that U.S. aid, and those of other reactionaries like Japan, is flowing into the regime, it is right that we make our calls active. Are we prepared to receive aid from abroad?

Yes, all these years political as well as material aid. We're happy to say that the support has been very warm, from many parts of the world. The reservoir of goodwill for the movement is vast. We appeal for help through solidarity work. And this is not one-way. We help other peoples in their anti-imperialist and democratic struggles. And in receiving foreign support, we will not sacrifice our independence, the rights of our people, for without their support, we would not have reached this stage. Foreign support is secondary.

BD: So the U.S. is only imagining things when it says that you are ready for large-scale Soviet funding.

Zumel: This is nothing new. As far as I know, there has been no offer of help from the Soviet Union nor have we received any assistance from them. I think they are even helping the dictatorship, politically and economically.

BD: The military is linking the spate of bank robberies in Metro Manila to the Left, saying that you need funds to sustain your organization.

Zumel: (laughs) That is baseless. We reject it. Those hold-ups may have been done by their men and attributed to us. They always do this. Look at the Aquino assassination. This was blamed on the Left. We are poor but we look for resources in a more decent manner.

BD: Do you see Marcos as holding a "Soviet card" as his bargaining leverage with the U.S.?

Zumel: Marcos is a rabid anti-communist and livid reactionary that he will not sever his ties with the U.S. Nambobola lang yan [He's just joking].

BD: Is the formation of a legal united front a new development with the NDF? Are you training cadres for this?

Zumel: From the beginning, NDF has stood for unity of revolutionary and progressive forces, of positive forces to topple the dictatorship. We've been doing this ever since.

We try to put together revolutionary and progressive forces to hasten the dismantling of the dictatorship. In recent years, the growth of the progressive forces has become fast. Maybe people saw the fast growth of the democratic forces and thought that we have just recently started ...

BD: Is there a difference in alliance work in rural and urban areas?

Zumel: In rural areas, where the enemy -- the bureaucratic and fascist structures -- is relatively weak, mas maluwag ang pagkilos [There is more room to maneuver]. There is relative freedom to propagate the cause. In the city, the center of the enemy, the movement is also lively. People oppose government. But, sometimes, there are objective limitations. Except for that, work in the urban areas continues.

BD: Do you feel the Left is being isolated as a result of the government's counter-insurgency program?

Zumel: What the U.S. imperialists want to happen is very transparent. They want to show the people that we don't have to go to the streets to attain reforms; that it can be done through elections. They offer this as an alternative to arrest the polarization happening in our society. The imperialist are selling reformism but they cannot point to substantial reforms taking place. As we know them, the imperialists are not after democratic reforms. They offer a credible promise of reforms, just a promise, then in so doing, they deceive the people and hit the Left. They keep pressing Marcos, "Where's the counter-insurgency program? Let's shape it up."

BD: Has your timetable changed? It was said before that the strategic stalemate will be reached with three to five years.

Zumel: The advance of the movement continues. In the next few years, we will reach a more advanced stage of people's war. It is difficult to make a projection of so many years. There are factors that may slow down the movement; there are those which can speed up the growth of the movement. It is hard to pin these down. We have to base our projections on objective conditions and subjective forces. We don't see economic recovery soon, we don't expect a miracle in the coming years. It seems only (Cesar) Virata sees things through rose-tinted glasses.

BD: What factors can slow down the movement?

Zumel: If we make mistakes.

BD: Has there ever been a big mistake? A strategic mistake?

Zumel: Our growth is an indicator that, generally, we are on the right course. We're using the right tactics, following the right line. Military struggle is very important form of struggle. But there is also the political struggle. The enemy continues to hold a big edge in the balance of forces militarily, in the number of men, number of arms, quality of arms, quality of communications, organization. The disparity is big. What is important is the fast pace of growth. The enemy could also expand especially with U.S. aid. But equally important is political support of the people. Even if they are militarily superior as of now, a big component in the people's war is the struggle of the people, armed or unarmed.

BD: It is said the military initiative rests with the NPA.

Zumel: Are you quoting Gen. Fidel Ramos?

BD: Also the recent intelligence committee report of the U.S. Senate.

Zumel: In the coming years, guerrilla warfare will be intensified throughout the country. The formations of our fighting units are becoming larger to be able to carry out bigger tactical offensives. There is no limit to this in the future. But when strategic stalemate or decisive total victory is reached, many factors will influence the pace. Either the momentum will speed up or slow down.

BD: Is your numerical strength one million?

Zumel: We have organized forces and a general mass base. Even those who are unorganized help in different ways. Have you been to any of our guerrilla fronts?

BD: Yes.

Zumel: In the more advanced guerrilla fronts, mass organizations are stable farmers, workers, women. In less developed areas, it is possible that organizations are still in the initial stage of being formed. But generally, many help, from welcoming comrades to their homes, to providing food, up to gathering intelligence against the enemy, and in communications. I don't know if we use figures. But the mass base plus those organized, those still in the process of being organized, reach more than a million, several millions.

BD: So, is your way of gaining adherents highlighting the NDF more than the CPP? The military says Filipinos are scared of the word communism.

Zumel: (laughs) Is that what Eddie Ramos says? In the NDF, we undertake our own campaigns, the (Communist) party undertakes its own campaigns. The party expands as a party. They also subscribe to the 12-point program.

BD: I think the NDF has taken a higher profile more than the CPP as shown in the first NDF press conference, which was followed by your interview with NEWSWEEK.

Zumel: You can also interview the CPP.

BD: Why isn't there a CPP press conference?

Zumel: I will suggest this to them.

BD: Is this not deliberate -- highlighting the NDF more than the CPP?

Zumel: No, this is a sign of growth of the national united front and particularly the organizational expression, foremost of which is the NDF. Like you, you requested for an interview with the NDF, not with the CPP. Those from the party are not reserved, I believe they can give their views on different issues. But because of the growth of the NDF, there are many requests for interviews.

BD: And the NDF is the broader Umbrella...

Zumel: Indeed, it is.

BD: What is your reaction to the BBC [Bishops and Businessmen's Conference] survey which showed that, overall, Filipinos want American presence and that Marcos still has the upper hand. Does this mean more work for you?

Zumel: Without questioning the means by which they conducted their survey, the reality is different as we in the movement see it. In the countryside and the cities, people are forthright in expressing their views. As long as the people you are talking to are free to speak up. People in the countryside do not want this government. People are thoroughly fed up with the dictatorship. They are acting in various ways, that includes armed struggle, to show their opposition to it. On the U.S. issue, in the past few years, people have been distinctly the decisive hand of the U.S. in Philippine politics. Today, with their actions, with their impositions on our economy, people perceive this more. They can no longer deceive. It is not in the consciousness of many that at the turn of the century, the U.S. aggressive forces killed so many Filipinos. Those within the movement see this clearly; others will see it later -- the decisive hand of the U.S. in almost all spheres, military, cultural, and economic.

BD: Is there any basis for comparing the Philippines to Iran or Nicaragua?

Zumel: There are similarities like these countries were ruled by fascist dictator of Marcos's shade, local reactionary forces and U.S. imperialism. Another one is that the people became aware and waged an open, anti-imperialist struggle. Nicaragua was a semicolonial, semifeudal society. A difference is the geographical factor. For instance, we don't have any country contiguous to U.S. like Vietnam, which could help. Our islands are far from each other.

BD: Did you see any difference in the counterinsurgency programs under Gen. Ver and Gen. Ramos?

Zumel: The U.S. speaks of Ramos as if he's so clean. Throughout all these years, he's been the commanding general of the PC [Philippine Constabulary] and the PC is one of the worst commands; it is a fascist weapon. Both Ver and Ramos are the same. As far as the people are concerned, their hands are stained with the blood of the Filipino people. There is no difference in their reactionary orientation. The value of Ramos is deceptive. The U.S. is foisting him on us. We don't believe the AFP [Armed Forces of Philippines] will be less corrupt, less bloody with reforms. It will be as repressive as it has always been. The U.S. wants the AFP to even be a more efficient weapon of the state to suppress the forces of change. It doesn't matter if the chief of staff were Ver or even (Josephus) Ramos. We don't expect essential changes in character and orientation. The AFP will always remain a force for violence to preserve this system.

BD: Even with the reform movement?

Zumel: I wouldn't be surprised if, from the very start, the U.S. hand was in the reform movement. They only serve to deodorize the AFP, giving the deceptive impression that changes will be forthcoming.

BD: Any message to the readers?

Zumel: Continue the struggle in whatever form; in the streets, in the armed arena. We cannot expect salvation through elections under this system. We cannot expect a liberator, a deus ex machina to deliver us. Our salvation lies in ourselves, in organization.

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